

# COLOMBIA

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**G**ender equality, or having equal rights and opportunities regardless of gender, is a fundamental human right. It is also the foundation for a healthier, more productive, and more peaceful world.<sup>1</sup> Yet, with just 10 years left to fulfill the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2.8 billion girls and women live in countries failing or barely passing on gender equality-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>2</sup>

To accelerate progress towards gender equality before 2030, UN Women convened the [Generation Equality Forum](#), a global public conversation co-hosted by the Governments of France and Mexico. In the lead up to the Forum, a set of six “Action Coalitions” — multi-stakeholder partnerships — are being developed to deliver tangible results on (1) gender-based violence (GBV), (2) economic justice and rights, (3) bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), (4) feminist action for climate justice, (5) technology and innovation for gender equality, and (6) feminist movements and leadership.

Achieving the objectives of the Forum will not be possible without the right information and data. Evidence drives policy, public opinion, and people to action. Without it, citizens and development actors cannot make informed decisions about policies and programs. To improve data and accountability for girls and women, [Women Deliver](#) partnered with [Focus 2030](#) and the [Development Engagement Lab](#) to survey citizens’ attitudes and expectations on the six Action Coalitions in 17 countries.<sup>i</sup>

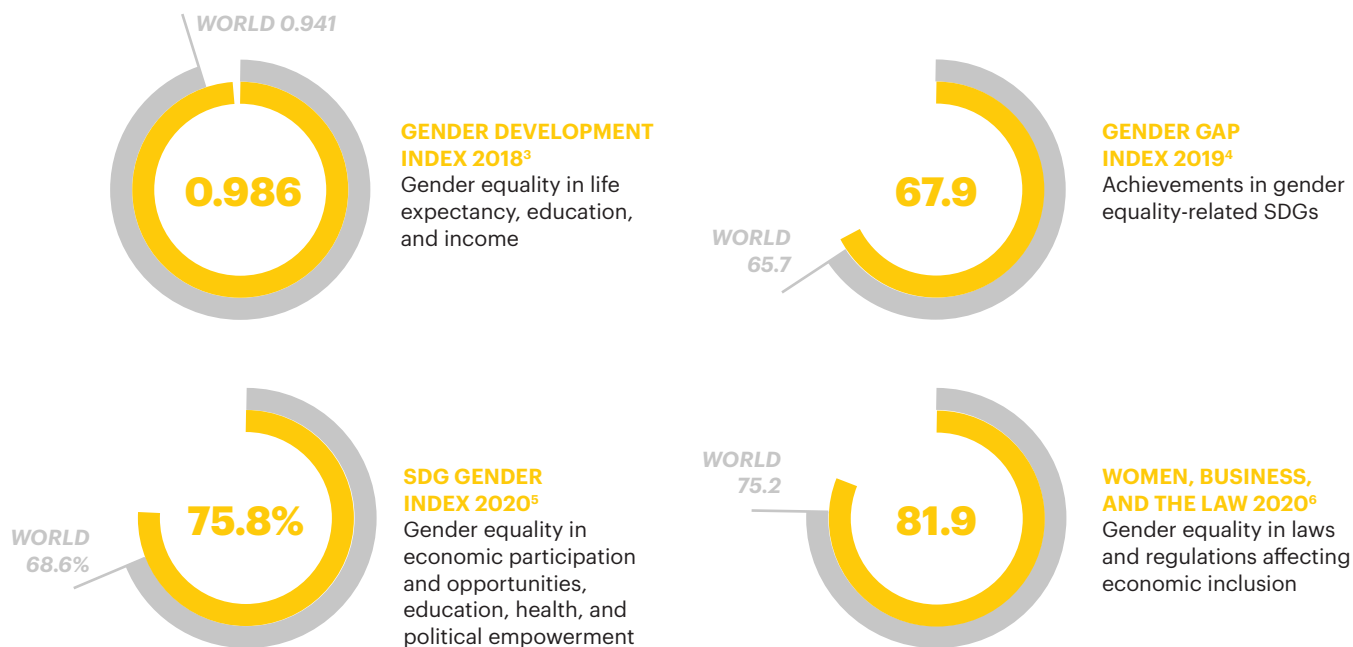
This document presents key results of the survey in Colombia. It is intended to inform civil society’s actions and orient decision-makers towards gender equality topics that their citizens would like to see more engagement and investments in by governments.

## FIGURE 1 MILESTONES FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN COLOMBIA



<sup>i</sup> This note captures preliminary findings of a public perception survey on gender equality for Colombia. This work is co-led by Women Deliver and Focus 2030. The survey was carried out in 17 countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, and the United States of America. It focuses on public perceptions on gender equality and the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions. Approximately one thousand respondents in each country were surveyed in July/August 2020. Demographic data collected included: gender, age, income level, education level, last vote in national elections, and region of residency. In Colombia, 1,009 respondents were surveyed, including 514 females, 495 males, and zero individuals who identified “in another way”. Of the 1,009 respondents, 190 were aged 18 to 24, 377 were aged 25 to 44, 319 were aged 45 to 59, and 123 were aged 60 and older. To access additional findings for the 17 surveyed countries, including the full report and survey questionnaire, please visit <http://womensdeliver.org/citizens-call-for-a-gender-equal-world/>.

## FIGURE 2 RESULTS IN KEY GENDER INDICES



### TOPLINE SURVEY FINDINGS

Around nine in 10 (92 percent) surveyed respondents in Colombia declare that gender equality is important to them personally. Respondents of all genders, age groups, places of residence, and income and education levels equally share this sentiment.<sup>ii</sup>

Over the past few decades, Colombia has taken important steps to promote equality between men and women (Figure 1), which translated into concrete progress: 55 percent of respondents declare that gender equality is “better” in the country than it was 25 years ago, compared to 35 percent who express it is “more or less the same” and eight percent who report that it has “worsened.” The feeling of improvement is particularly prevalent among young female respondents and decreases with age (from 60 percent of female respondents aged 18 to 24 to 39 percent of those aged 60

and older), while older female respondents are more likely to express a perception of stagnation regarding women’s rights in the country (from 30 percent of female respondents aged 18 to 24 to 51 percent of those aged 60 and older). Female respondents living in rural areas are also more likely to feel the situation is “more or less the same” today than it was 25 years ago (57 percent) than their urban counterparts (37 percent). Colombia performs just above global and regional averages in international measures of progress toward gender equality (Figure 2). Still, **80 percent of respondents would like their government to do more to promote gender equality in the country**, especially those aged 18 to 44 (85 percent).

Overall, **50 percent of respondents believe “reform laws to promote equality between women and men and end discrimination**

<sup>ii</sup> Acknowledging that girls and women belonging to ethnic minorities are often disproportionately affected by gender inequalities, the survey collected information on respondents’ self-identification to particular ethnic groups (Amerindian, Black, Mestizo, White, and Other). However, data are not statistically significant for analysis.

**against women” should be a primary action.**

Support for this measure increases with age and is stronger among urban (52 percent) than rural (32 percent) female respondents (note: overall, there was no significant difference between urban and rural male respondents). It is followed by *“focusing efforts on marginalized girls and women;”* for example, LGBTQIA+ people and people living with disabilities (38 percent). Thirty-six percent of respondents support *“implementing mass media campaigns to raise awareness on the importance of gender equality issues”* (36 percent), and 35 percent support *“collecting data to research the specific challenges and opportunities for women.”*

When asked about the **main reasons why women may not be equal to men in Colombia**, both male and female respondents most commonly cite areas related to **economic justice**: *“because women and men have different employment opportunities”* (51 percent) and do not share *“unpaid care, domestic work, and parental responsibilities”*

equally (45 percent). Female respondents are more likely than male respondents to cite the latter (52 percent and 38 percent, respectively). Inequalities in this area may be exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis: 65 percent of female respondents declare their *“time doing household work has increased”* during this period, compared to 51 percent of male respondents. **More respondents think that the government’s response to support people through the pandemic has not met the needs of women and men equally** (39 percent, compared to 34 percent who disagree) **and inequality between women and men will rise as a consequence of the pandemic** (35 percent, compared to 31 percent who disagree).

In its [Beijing+25 National Review Report](#), Colombia highlights two of the Action Coalition themes as priority areas for 2019 to 2024: pursuing broader areas of women’s economic empowerment and addressing gender-based violence.<sup>7</sup>

## FINDINGS RELATED TO THE GENERATION EQUALITY ACTION COALITION THEMES

Governmental commitments to achieving gender equality are in line with respondents’ expectations. When asked to select the three most important areas, out of a list of pre-identified options, that the government should focus on to improve equality between women and men, **75 percent of respondents cite economic justice and rights and 74 percent cite ending violence against women.** The third most cited area is improving women’s participation and leadership in politics and cultural and social movements (50 percent), followed by investing in technology and innovation to improve women’s access to health services, education, and economic opportunities (36 percent), and securing girls’ and women’s sexual and reproductive health

and rights (30 percent). The least cited area is the promotion of women’s participation in climate change action (15 percent). Female and male respondents agree on this order of priorities.

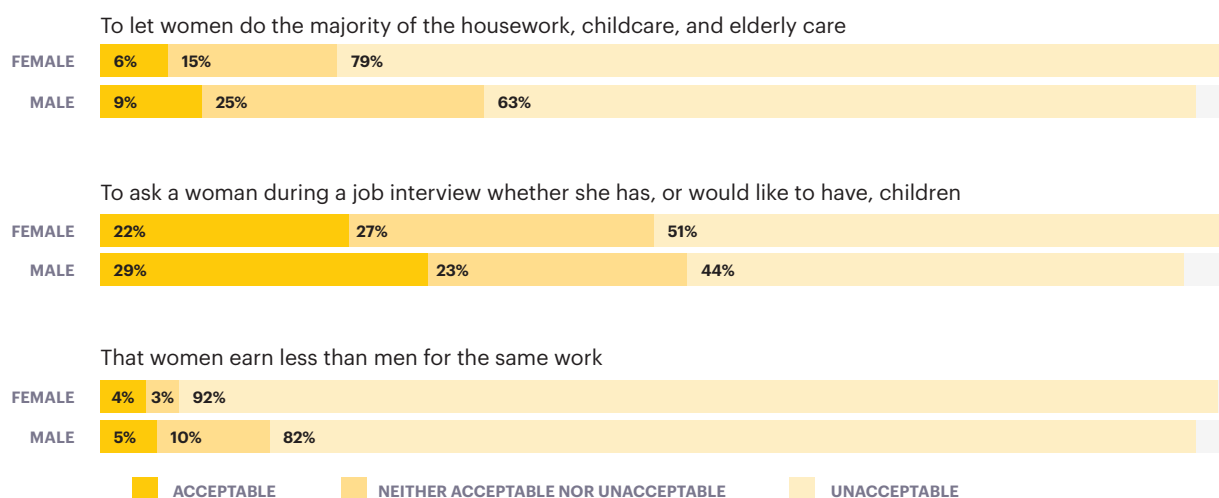
### ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

Respondents call for more investments to secure women’s economic rights. **Three in four (75 percent) respondents would like their government to promote economic justice and rights in order to advance gender equality in the country.** College-educated female respondents are especially likely to cite this as a priority area (87 percent). In order to improve women’s broader economic opportunities

## FIGURE 3 OPINIONS ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



### HOW ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE DO YOU PERSONALLY THINK THE FOLLOWING THINGS ARE:



and decision-making powers, 56 percent of respondents think the government should **“guarantee social protection and decent working conditions for women in low paying jobs.”** It is more often cited by urban (58 percent) than rural (47 percent) respondents. In Colombia, 16 percent of employed women occupy low-paying jobs, compared to 14 percent of employed men,<sup>8</sup> and 50 percent of working women are in informal employment, compared to 46 percent of men.<sup>9</sup> While the Government of Colombia has provided work permits to migrants and refugees, migrant and refugee women face barriers accessing safe and dignified employment opportunities and perform much of unpaid domestic labor.<sup>10</sup>

An important proportion of respondents **(47 percent) also declare they would like the government to close the gender pay gap.** Support for this measure increases with age, from 44 percent of respondents aged 18 to 24 to 59 percent of those aged 60 and older. **The same proportion of respondents (47 percent) stress the government’s responsibility to**

**“prevent violence and sexual harassment in the workplace.”** Finally, 40 percent would like the government to increase the number of women in leadership roles (in business, in politics, etc.). This response is particularly popular among male respondents aged 60 and older (56 percent, compared to 34 percent of female respondents of the same age group).

The survey reveals that a significant proportion of female respondents of all ages, places of residence, and income and education levels experienced discrimination that inhibited their economic opportunities. Indeed, 30 percent feel that they *“did not have the same access to promotion opportunities as [their] male peers”* (up to 47 percent of those aged 45 to 59); 20 percent report that they are *“not paid as much as [their] male counterparts where [they] work;”* 14 percent report having had *“difficulty accessing education and professional training compared with their male peers or relatives;”* and seven percent *“have not or will not receive the same inheritance as their male relatives.”*

Respondents, particularly male, continue to

hold discriminatory perceptions of women's role in the economy (Figure 3).

Those perceptions reflect the gender gaps that persist in the Colombian economy: young women are twice as likely (32 percent) as young men (16 percent) to not be in education, employment, or training.<sup>11</sup> The pay gap between men and women is estimated at four percent.<sup>12</sup> Women allocate 17.5 percent of their day to unpaid domestic and care work, while men allocate 4.5 percent.<sup>13</sup> And while women represent only 43 percent of the labor force, they are more likely to occupy informal jobs.<sup>14</sup> Colombia's primary program to advance women's economic empowerment is the [Program for Labor Equity](#), which was initiated in 2012 with a focus on gender. The objectives of this program are to define the actions to promote the social and economic recognition of women's work, implement mechanisms to uphold the right to equal pay, and develop campaigns for the eradication of discrimination and violence against women in the workplace.<sup>15</sup>

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

GBV is a major concern in Colombia. For 74 percent of surveyed respondents across all socioeconomic categories, ending GBV should be a governmental priority to improve gender equality in the country. All respondents also agree on the first measure necessary to address the issue: **"increase accountability for physical and sexual crimes against women"** (69 percent). Among male and female respondents, support for this measure increases with age (from 60 percent of those aged 18 to 24 to 74 percent of those aged 60 and older, and up to 83 percent of female respondents of this age group) and is more pronounced in urban areas (70 percent, compared to 60 percent in rural areas). Another 51 percent of respondents, 57 percent of female and 45 percent of male, stress the importance of *"funding programs to support women who have experienced violence."* Urban respondents are particularly likely to cite this measure

(53 percent) compared to rural respondents (39 percent). Additionally, 42 percent of respondents would also like the government to *"combat economic exploitation of women"* (for example, worker exploitation), with support for this measure increasing with age among both male and female respondents.

**The survey uncovers the persistence of harmful gender norms related to GBV (Figure 4). Male respondents particularly express these discriminatory opinions. For example, only 50 percent of male respondents believe a woman can refuse to have sexual intercourse with her partner.** Age does not seem to matter; the youngest respondents are equally likely as their elders to hold harmful opinions.

GBV is a significant threat to the health and rights of girls and women in Colombia. It is estimated that 33 percent of girls and women aged 15 to 49 have ever experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence and 23 percent of women aged 20 to 24 years were first married or in union before the age of 18.<sup>16</sup> Girls and women in Colombia have been subjected to conflict-related sexual violence over 50 years of conflict, including sexual abuse to exert territorial control, enforcing forced abortions, and engaging girls to perform sexual services, among others.<sup>17</sup> Conflict-related sexual violence continues to take place even after the peace deal was signed in 2016 between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).<sup>18</sup> While extensively underreported, girls and women represent 89 percent of the cases of conflict-related sexual violence reported in 2019.<sup>19</sup> In the month of September 2020, 86 femicides were recorded.<sup>20</sup> Indigenous and Afro-Colombian women are disproportionately affected by violence, representing 65 percent of all Indigenous and Afro-Colombian murders.<sup>21</sup> GBV incidence is higher in Colombia than in other Latin American countries.<sup>22</sup>

Colombia is home to a rising number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Girls and

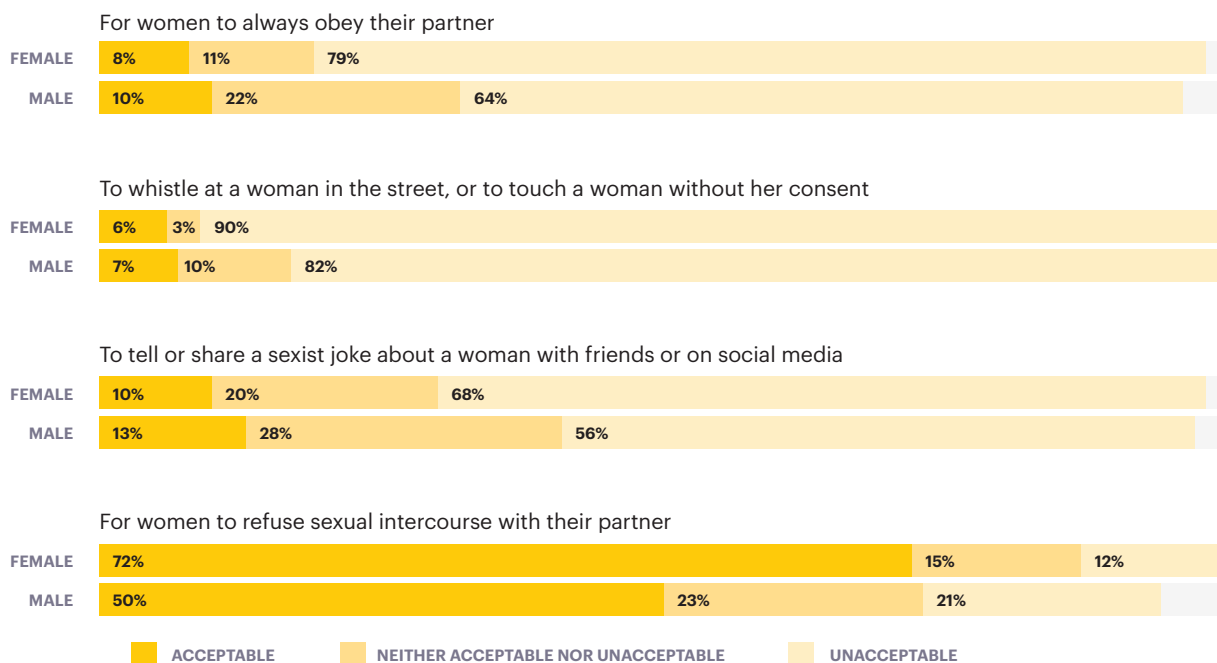
women that have been forcibly displaced are exposed to higher rates of GBV, including intimate partner and non-partner sexual violence.<sup>23</sup> Colombia hosts over 1.2 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants.<sup>24</sup> The number of Venezuelan survivors seeking healthcare services for GBV, including sexual violence, in Colombia increased by 207 percent in 2018 and another 37 percent in 2019.<sup>25</sup> Accessing healthcare becomes more challenging for refugees and migrants due to legal and citizenship status, language barriers, discrimination, lack of healthcare services and misinformation about their availability, and cultural norms regarding sexual and reproductive health.<sup>26</sup>

The main challenges in addressing GBV are related to the lack of information and coordination by authorities and a strong family-focus in the application of sanctions for cases involving women with children, with the preservation of the nuclear family often prioritized over the woman’s safety.<sup>27</sup> In 2013, the government enacted for the first time a Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee to Women a Life Free of Violence. This plan establishes guidelines on preventing violence, creates a monitoring mechanism, guarantees resources and care for survivors, and requires inter-agency coordination.<sup>28</sup> In addition, [Law 1719](#), enacted in 2014, establishes measures to guarantee access to justice for victims of sexual violence, including attacks that occurred

## FIGURE 4 NORMS AROUND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



### HOW ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE DO YOU PERSONALLY THINK THE FOLLOWING THINGS ARE:



Deltapoll survey conducted online using the quota method. Results analyzed by Focus 2030. Survey conducted between July 24, 2020 and August 3, 2020 among a representative sample of 1,009 adults in Colombia. Weighted data - Margin of error: ± 3%. For more information on the methodology: [Focus2030.org](https://focus2030.org).

during armed conflict.<sup>29</sup> The current [National Development Plan \(2018–2022\) includes the Pact for Colombia and the Pact for Equality](#), which has actions to ensure the right of women to a life free from violence, promote safe work environments, and reduce harmful practices related to child marriage and early unions.<sup>30</sup> However, access to justice remains a challenge in particular for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and those in rural areas.<sup>31</sup>

## FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

Improving women’s participation and leadership in politics and cultural and social movements is a key area to advance gender equality in the country. For one in two surveyed respondents (50 percent), it is one of the most important areas the government should focus on. Respondents highlight three priority actions to promote feminist movements and leadership: **“support women’s political leadership and participation”** (46 percent), **“achieve equal representation of women in politics”** (for example, in legislative and government bodies, 43 percent), and **“support women’s participation in peace processes and as human rights defenders”** (41 percent). Female respondents express slightly more support for these measures than their male counterparts, but other socioeconomic characteristics such as age, place of residence, and income and education levels influence respondents’ answers only marginally.

A majority of respondents believe that gender quotas are a good way to advance gender equality in Colombia (Figure 5). Indeed, 56 percent of respondents “agree” with this statement, while only 22 percent “disagree.” Respondents aged 25 to 59, both male and female, appear particularly in favor of gender quotas. There has been a 30 percent quota for women in decision-making positions since 2000.<sup>32</sup> This law applies to state-owned

companies and all government entities. Yet, while women make up 58 percent of the total 19 ministers, they only represent 18 percent of the total 172 Members of Parliament.<sup>33</sup>

Durable peace is associated with peace agreements that have women signatories.<sup>34</sup> Women played an important role in the peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Women-focused civil society organizations (CSOs) played instrumental roles in building coalitions, rallying public support, repairing community relations, and laying the groundwork for the peace-building efforts.<sup>35, 36</sup> While they were mostly excluded from early rounds of peace talks, women comprised 20 percent of the governmental negotiating team and 40 percent of the FARC team in final negotiations. As a result, the final peace agreement includes a gender perspective<sup>37</sup> and was the only peace agreement signed between 2015 and 2019 that contains gender-sensitive provisions.<sup>38</sup> Ongoing engagement of women in the peace and security process must be integrated with humanitarian efforts in order to be effective and protect the growing number of migrants and refugees in Colombia, including those living in conflict settings. While women and women-focused CSOs have been leading local responses to humanitarian needs, they are seldom consulted in formal humanitarian processes nor do they receive adequate funding to maximize their impact. Migrant and refugee women’s participation in these responses has also not been prioritized.<sup>39</sup>

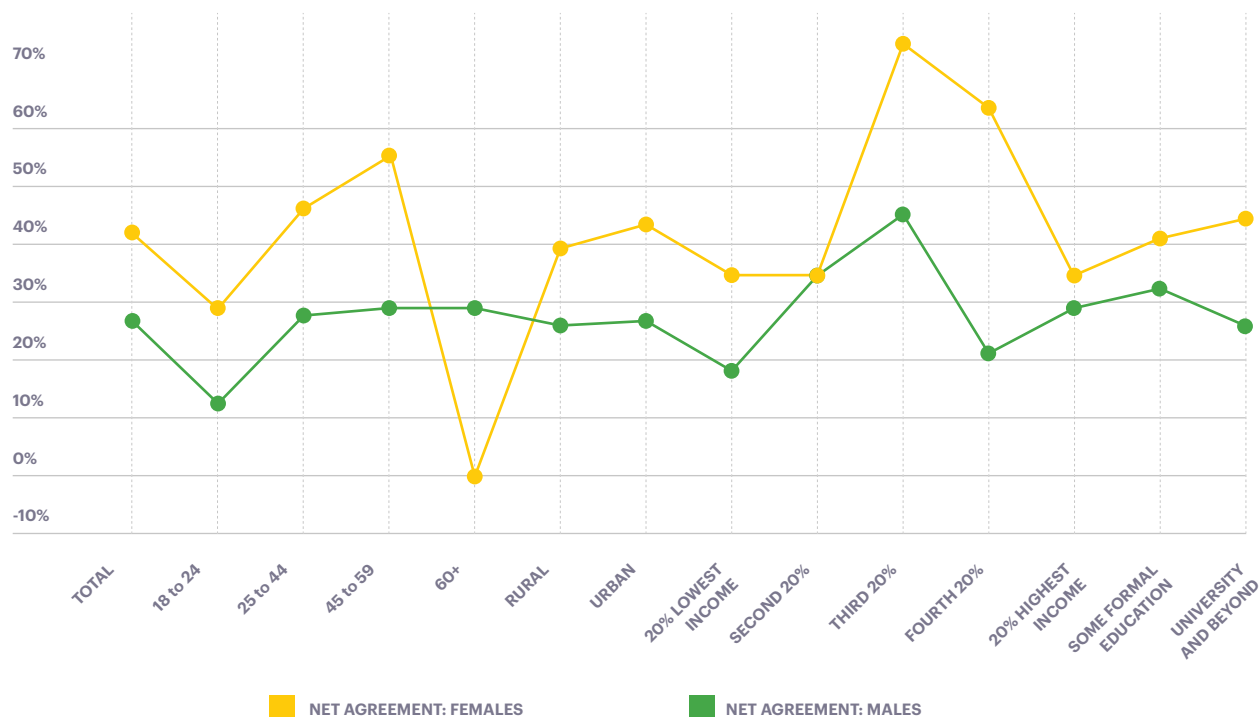
Additionally, for 38 percent of respondents, the government should also take measures to **“ensure the safety of feminist activists and women involved in politics.”** Women human rights defenders in Colombia face significant threats on account of their gender; more than 340 of them were killed between 2016 and 2018.<sup>40</sup> In 2016, the government issued [Decree 1314](#), which created the Intersectoral Guarantees Commission for the Women



## FIGURE 5 OPINIONS ON GENDER QUOTAS



**Imposing gender quotas, that is, having a proportion of seats for women in all political decision-making bodies, is a good way to advance gender equality in Colombia**



The net agreement rate is obtained by subtracting the proportion of respondents who disagreed from the proportion of respondents who agreed. Deltapoll survey conducted online using the quota method. Results analyzed by Focus2030. Survey conducted between July 24, 2020 and August 3, 2020 among a representative sample of 1,009 adults in Colombia. Weighted data - Margin of error: ± 3%. For more information on the methodology: [Focus2030.org](https://focus2030.org).

Leaders and Defenders of Human Rights, whose main function is to ensure the inter-institutional coordination for the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Guarantee Program for Women Leaders and Defenders of Human Rights.<sup>41</sup> Despite this, the number of women human rights defenders killed increased by almost 50 percent in 2019 compared to 2018.<sup>42</sup> Additionally, there is a lack of prompt investigation and prosecution of killings and attacks. Only 20 out of 213 reported cases that are prioritized by the Attorney General Office since 2016 have sentenced the perpetrators while the rest of cases remain ongoing.<sup>43</sup>

### TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

For 36 percent of respondents, the government should invest in gender-sensitive technology and innovation to advance gender equality in the country. Male and female respondents aged 18 to 24 express less support for this area than the rest of the population (22 percent, compared to 38 percent of older respondents), as well as college-educated respondents (33 percent, compared to 42 percent of those who did not attend university).

To promote the use of technology and innovation for gender equality, 59 percent

of respondents believe the government should **“provide equal opportunities for girls and women to study and work in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)”** (Figure 6). This proportion is stable across socioeconomic groups of respondents, but with urban respondents expressing more interest than their rural peers (62 percent and 43 percent, respectively). **“Increasing the safety of digital spaces for girls and women (for example, preventing harassment or abuse of women online)”** also appears essential to 58 percent of respondents, and in particular to female respondents (64 percent compared to 52 percent of men) and younger respondents (72 percent of female respondents aged 18 to 24, compared to 63 percent of those aged 25 to 59, and 49 percent of those aged

60 and older). Respondents also call for an *“improved use of innovative data collection methods to understand girls’ and women’s needs and experiences”* (43 percent) and more *“investments in technology that helps deliver healthcare and other services virtually to girls and women”* (43 percent).

Girls and women in Colombia are under-represented in STEM fields of study and work. In 2018, they accounted for 21 percent of students enrolled in information and communication technology programs in tertiary education and 34 percent of those in engineering, manufacturing, and construction programs.<sup>44</sup> As a result, women hold only 33 percent of all STEM jobs in the country and 25.6 percent of research positions in engineering and technology.<sup>45, 46</sup>

## FIGURE 6 ACTIONS ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



### WHICH ACTIONS, IF ANY, SHOULD YOUR GOVERNMENT TAKE TO PROMOTE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN COLOMBIA?

Provide equal opportunities for girls and women to study and work in STEM

59%

Increase safety of digital spaces for girls and women

58%

Invest in technology that helps deliver healthcare and other services virtually for girls and women

43%

Improve the use of innovative data collection methods to understand girls’ and women’s needs and experiences

43%

Address barriers preventing girls and women from accessing, designing, and developing technology

36%

Don’t know

3%

None

1%

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## BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

**For 30 percent of respondents, to improve gender equality in the country, the government should secure women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).**

Both younger female and male respondents are more likely to express support for SRHR (from 46 percent of respondents aged 18 to 24 to 21 percent of those aged 60 and older). Support was also higher among respondents who did not attend university (39 percent, compared to

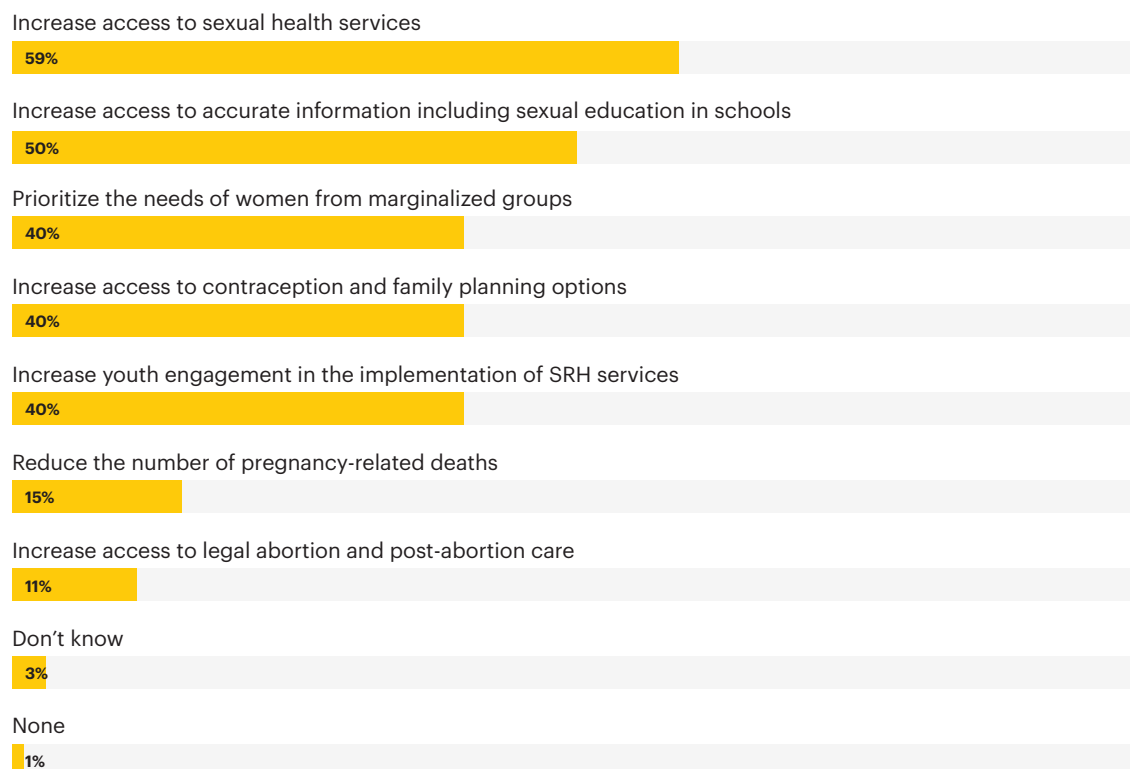
26 percent of those who attended university), and live in urban areas (32 percent, compared to 23 percent in rural areas).

**Respondents of all socioeconomic categories are unanimous on the first measure the government should take to improve women’s SRHR (Figure 7): “increase access to sexual health services (for example, prevention, testing, and treatment options for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS)” (59 percent).** While female respondents of all ages are equally likely to mention this measure, support among male respondents increases with age. Half of the respondents

### FIGURE 7 OPINIONS ON SRHR



#### WHICH ACTIONS, IF ANY, SHOULD YOUR GOVERNMENT TAKE TO IMPROVE WOMEN’S SRHR IN COLOMBIA?



Deltapoll survey conducted online using the quota method. Results analyzed by Focus2030. Survey conducted between July 24, 2020 and August 3, 2020 among a representative sample of 1,009 adults in Colombia. Weighted data - Margin of error:  $\pm 3\%$ . For more information on the methodology: [Focus2030.org](https://focus2030.org).

(50 percent) call for an *“increased access to accurate information, including sexual education in schools.”* Forty percent of respondents equally prioritize three measures: *“increase access to contraception and family planning options;” “increase youth engagement in the implementation of SRH services (for example, consulting youth to better deliver contraception);”* and *“prioritize the needs of women from marginalized groups (for example, women with disabilities, ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, refugees, and migrants).”* Female respondents (45 percent), especially those of reproductive age (50 percent of women aged 18 to 44, compared to 30 percent of those aged 60 and older), are more likely to stress the importance of *“increasing access to contraception and family planning options,”* while male respondents more often cite *“increasing youth engagement in the implementation of SRH services”* (44 percent).

While women’s SRH services are generally accessible in Colombia, more investments are needed: **16 percent of female respondents report having had “difficulty accessing their chosen method of contraception** (for example, because of family restrictions, cost issues, or lack of availability).” This proportion rises to **one in three female respondents aged 18 to 24** and concerns twice as many female respondents with formal education but who did not attend university (23 percent) than those who attended university (11 percent). Data from various sources confirms the ongoing SRHR needs of the population: seven percent of married or in-union women have an unmet need for family planning, and in 2017, there were 83 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.<sup>47</sup> In 2018, there were 65 births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19, compared to 42 at the world level.<sup>48</sup> An estimated 400,000 abortions took place in Colombia in 2008 alone.<sup>49</sup>

Colombia’s main program in advancing SRHR is the National Policy on Sexuality and Sexual and Reproductive Rights (2014–2021), which focuses on the promotion of sexual and reproductive

rights and the implementation of preventive and comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare. It notably foresees that by 2021, 80 percent of public schools will provide pupils with sexuality education.<sup>50</sup> Despite these advances, Colombia’s Constitutional Court voted in 2020 to keep restrictive abortion laws that only allows abortion in cases of rape, fetal impairment, and to save a woman’s life.<sup>51</sup>

## FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Despite Colombia’s vulnerability to the effects of climate change, only 15 percent of respondents think women’s participation in responding to climate change should be a governmental priority to advance gender equality compared to other Action Coalition areas. This proportion is stable across socioeconomic groups.

In terms of government actions, to enhance women’s efforts to respond to climate change, respondents prioritize measures to ensure girls and women are included in the development of mitigation and adaptation measures, rather than measures to simply help them face climate change (Figure 8). Indeed, 65 percent of respondents express support for government action to **“promote the training and hiring of women in jobs related to climate change** (for example, clean energy and technology).” Support for this measure is particularly strong among respondents aged 45 to 59 (75 percent of female and 72 percent of male). Other important measures are *“increasing funding for women-led organizations that are working to fight climate change”* (cited by 61 percent of respondents) and *“increasing girls’ and women’s participation in the development of solutions to tackle climate change”* (54 percent of respondents). Increasing this support is crucial, as women in Colombia are leading the fight against climate change and environmental conservation.

Colombia is a party to the [United Nations](#)

## FIGURE 8 FEMINIST ACTIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



### WHICH ACTIONS, IF ANY, SHOULD YOUR GOVERNMENT TAKE TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN COLOMBIA?

Promote the training and hiring of women in jobs related to climate change

65%

Increase funding for women-led organizations that are working to fight climate change

61%

Increase girls' and women's participation in the development of solutions to tackle climate change

54%

Address girls' and women's needs in climate change and natural disaster response

27%

Protect girls and women forced to migrate due to climate change

26%

Don't know

5%

None

3%

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[Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) and ratified the [Kyoto Protocol](#) in 2001 and the [Paris Agreement](#) in 2018. In 2019, 63 percent of Colombian delegates to the 25th Conference of Parties in Madrid were women.<sup>52</sup>

### FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

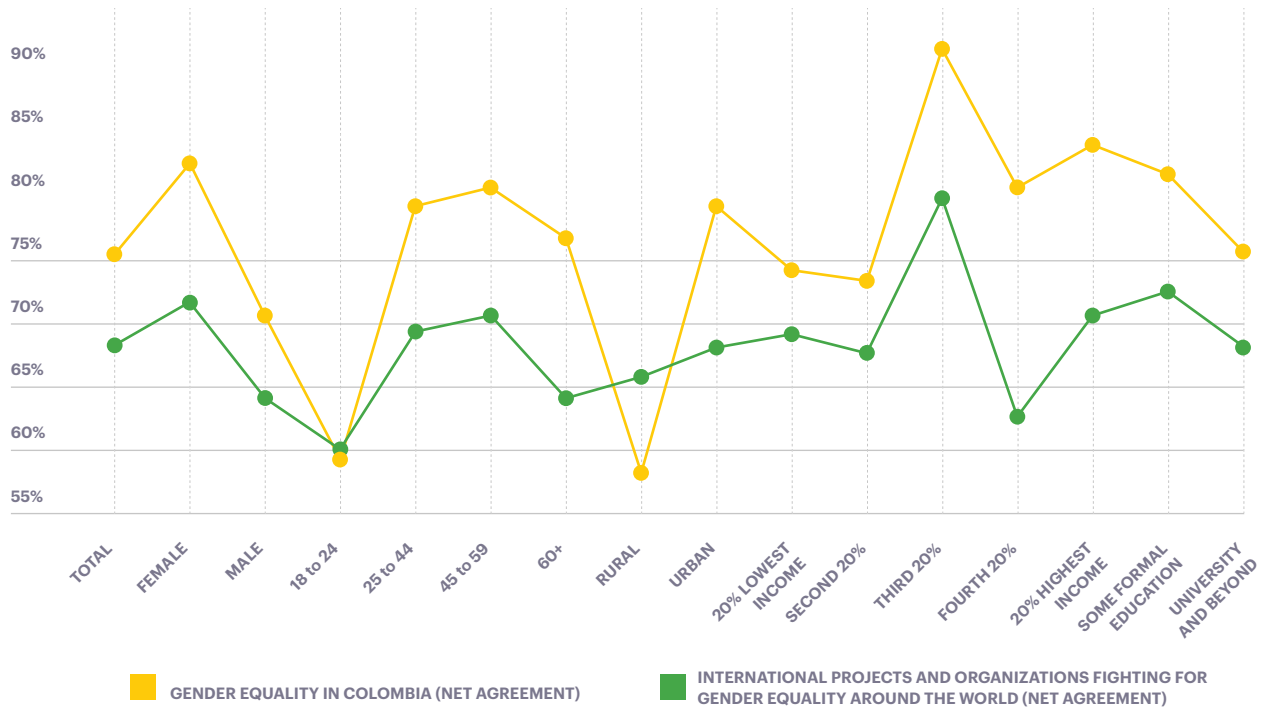
When asked about the most important issues currently facing their country, only three percent of respondents identify “inequality between women and men,” after “corruption” (70 percent), “global diseases and pandemics” (45 percent), “the economy” (37 percent), “health” (36 percent), or “crime” (33 percent). Yet, **81 percent of respondents think the government should increase its funding for gender equality** in Colombia, and only five percent “disagree.” Around eight in 10

respondents support this measure across all socioeconomic categories, with the notable exceptions of male respondents aged 18 to 24 (57 percent) and male respondents living in rural areas (67 percent). Moreover, **31 percent of respondents would like the government to “consider the needs and interests of women and girls when developing government spending budgets.”** In addition, **74 percent of respondents believe their government should increase its funding for international projects and organizations fighting for gender equality around the world** (Figure 9).

## FIGURE 9 NET SUPPORT FOR INCREASED GENDER EQUALITY FUNDING



**ON THE OCCASION OF THE GENDER EQUALITY FORUM, MY GOVERNMENT SHOULD INCREASE ITS FUNDING FOR...**



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ **Eliminate the gender gaps in the economic sphere** by guaranteeing social protections and decent working conditions for women, especially for women in low paying jobs and refugee and migrant women in informal sector; ensure the law mandating equal pay is upheld; offer businesses incentives to hire women in the formal economy; and encourage dialogue to challenge the traditional distribution of paid and unpaid work among men and women.
- ➔ **Improve coordination of services and accountability mechanisms in the process of denouncing, responding to, and securing justice for girls and women experiencing gender-based violence, including providing comprehensive care and improving information accessibility.**
- ➔ **Promote the engagement and leadership of girls and women, refugees, internally displaced women, migrants, and the organizations they lead in all peace, security, and humanitarian efforts, including across decision-making processes.** Increase flexible and long-term investments in women-focused CSOs in humanitarian efforts, including those led by forcibly displaced girls and women. Include women-focused CSOs from humanitarian settings in all local, national, regional, and global discussions that affect their work and lives.
- ➔ **Increase access to sexual and reproductive health services, including the prevention and treatment of STIs and HIV and through the liberalization of abortion laws.**
- ➔ **Adopt measures to encourage the enrollment of more girls and women in STEM fields of study, including training and reskilling to increase women's participation in the green economy.**
- ➔ **Enforce and promote the application of the law on gender quotas to increase the number of women, in particular Afro-Colombian and Indigenous women, in leadership roles.**

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