



MEXICO

CITIZENS CALL FOR A GENDER-EQUAL WORLD : A ROADMAP FOR ACTION¹



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WHAT DO RESPONDENTS IN MEXICO THINK ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY?

- ➔ **The vast majority of respondents in Mexico declare that gender equality is “important” to them personally (93 percent), with only one percent deeming it “unimportant.”**
- ➔ **Fifty-five percent of respondents in Mexico think gender equality in Mexico is “better” now than it was 25 years ago.** Female respondents are less likely to think that gender equality has improved (50 percent) than male respondents (61 percent), with female respondents aged 60 and older the most likely to think that gender equality has gotten “worse” (22 percent). **The vast majority of respondents (82 percent) think that the Mexican government “should do more” to promote gender equality in the country,** while 12 percent think it is doing “the right amount,” and four percent think it is “doing too much.”
- ➔ **To promote gender equality in the country, 59 percent of respondents in Mexico think that the government should “reform laws to promote gender equality and end discrimination against women.”** This view is held more strongly by female (64 percent) than male respondents (54 percent).
- ➔ As to the “reasons why women may not be equal to men in Mexico,” many reasons are considered important. **The most agreed-upon reason for gender inequality is the “different employment opportunities for men and women” (47 percent).** This is followed by the “unequal distribution of unpaid care, domestic work, and parental responsibilities” (45 percent), the most cited reason among female respondents (50 percent), whereas fewer male respondents cite it (39 percent). This is followed by the “different treatment boys and girls receive growing up” (43 percent) and “religion and culture that treat women and men differently” (41 percent).



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- ➔ **Gender-based violence is seen as the most important priority the government should focus on to improve gender equality in Mexico,** with 43 percent choosing “end violence against women” as their first choice. Seventy-nine percent identify this as a top-three important area.

¹ This country data sheet captures findings from a public perception survey on gender equality for Mexico. This work is co-led by Focus 2030 and Women Deliver. The survey was executed through an online poll, conducted by Deltapoll, in 17 countries. 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 (where applicable), ethnicity (where applicable), migrant status, and region of residency. In Mexico, 1,006 respondents were surveyed, including 523 female respondents, 481 male respondents, and 2 respondents who identified “in another way.” Of the 1,006 respondents, 203 were aged 18 to 24, 427 were aged 25 to 44, 223 were aged 45 to 59, and 153 were aged 60 and older. Please see www.focus2030.org and www.womendeliver.org for more information.

² Text in italics and quotes reflect survey response options presented to respondents.

- ➔ To end gender-based violence, most respondents in Mexico (67 percent) believe that **their government should “increase accountability for [perpetrators of] physical and sexual crimes against women.”** More female (71 percent) than male respondents (62 percent) believe their government should take this action. Respondents also show support for “ending traditional practices that are harmful to girls and women” (44 percent), as well as “addressing the unequal balance of power between women and men at home” (40 percent).
- ➔ **The vast majority of respondents in Mexico (91 percent) feel at risk of assault or harassment, or know someone who feels at risk,** in some place or another, regardless of gender. The most common situation to feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, is in “public spaces” (75 percent of respondents, and 77 percent of female respondents). A large proportion of Mexican respondents also feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, of assault “online” (62 percent). Additionally, thirty-two percent of female respondents have had their “freedom of movement restricted against [their] will by family members or a partner.”
- ➔ The majority of respondents in Mexico (75 percent) believe it is “unacceptable” for “women to always obey their partner.” A significant proportion also believe that it is “acceptable” for “women to refuse sexual intercourse with their partner” (69 percent, and 80 percent of female respondents). The vast majority of respondents also think that it is “unacceptable” to “whistle at a woman in the street or to touch a woman without her consent” (88 percent).



ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

- ➔ **Realizing women’s economic justice and rights is the second most highly-ranked priority,** with 24 percent of respondents identifying “access to well paid jobs, equal pay, financial independence, and property rights” a top priority. Seventy-five percent identify this as a top-three important area.
- ➔ **In order to improve women’s broader economic opportunities, “preventing violence and harassment in the workplace” (selected by 56 percent of respondents) and “achieving equal pay” (49 percent) are seen as key requirements** for government action by Mexican respondents. “Guaranteeing decent working conditions for women in low-paying jobs” is also an action 47 percent of respondents think the government should take.
- ➔ **Sixty-five percent of female respondents in Mexico feel that they have faced any one of the prompted common gender disadvantages in their life.** Twenty-seven percent report that they have “not been paid as much as male counterparts,” and 27 percent have not “had the same access to promotion opportunities in [their] job as [their] male peers.” In addition, 13 percent “have not or will not receive the same inheritance” as their male relatives, and 11 percent have had “difficulty accessing education and training compared with male peers.”

- ➔ For 68 percent of respondents in Mexico, it is “unacceptable” to “let women do the majority of housework, childcare, and elderly care,” with more female respondents finding it unacceptable (73 percent) than males (64 percent). Additionally, to “ask a woman during a job interview whether she has, or would like to have, children” is “unacceptable” for 51 percent of respondents. An age gradient exists, with respondents aged 60 and older finding this more “unacceptable” (60 percent) than younger respondents aged 18 to 24 (46 percent). The vast majority of respondents (89 percent) also believe that “women earning less than men for the same work” is “unacceptable.”
- ➔ **During the Covid-19 pandemic, 64 percent of female respondents have “spent more time doing household work,” compared to 51 percent of male respondents, and 27 percent spent more time “looking after others,” compared to 20 percent of male respondents.**



FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

- ➔ **Feminist movements and leadership is respondents’ third priority overall**, with nine percent ranking “improve women’s participation and leadership in politics, and cultural and social movements” as a top priority. Forty-one percent identify this as a top-three important area.
- ➔ **For 46 percent of respondents, “achieving the equal representation of women in politics” is a key action that the Mexican government should take.** This view is held most strongly among female respondents aged 60 and older (66 percent), followed by those aged 18 to 24 (53 percent). Additionally, 39 percent of respondents think their government should “support women’s political leadership and participation,” with older cohorts finding this more important than younger ones (49 percent, aged 60 and older; 30 percent, 18 to 24). Other popular actions are to “ensure the safety of feminist activists and women involved in politics” (38 percent) and “support women’s participation in peace processes and as human right defenders” (37 percent).
- ➔ **The imposition of gender quotas in all political decision-making bodies is seen as a good way to advance gender equality in Mexico for 50 percent of respondents**, with 26 percent disagreeing (21 percent of female respondents, compared to 32 percent of male respondents).



BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- ➔ **Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights is ranked fourth**, with seven percent of respondents ranking “access to contraception and family planning, good maternal health, and sex education in schools” as a top priority. Thirty-seven percent identify this as a top-three important area.
- ➔ To advance women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, **54 percent of respondents would like the government to “increase access to sexual health services” and 52 percent to “increase access to accurate information including sexual health education in schools.”**

- ➔ **Sixteen percent of female respondents in Mexico have had difficulty in their lives “accessing their chosen method of contraception,” rising to 25 percent among those aged 18 to 24.** Seven percent have had difficulty “accessing abortion and post-abortion care” in their lifetime. Again, this is more pronounced (13 percent) among female respondents aged 18 to 24.
- ➔ During the Covid-19 pandemic, four percent of respondents in Mexico have had difficulty accessing “contraception and other sexual health services” during the pandemic, and one percent have had difficulty accessing “abortion options and post-abortion care.”



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ➔ **Technology and innovation for gender equality is respondents’ fifth most cited priority for government action,** with seven percent ranking “investing in technology to improve women’s access to health services, education, and economic opportunities” as a top priority. Thirty-six identify this as a top-three important area.
- ➔ **Popular actions that respondents in Mexico would like their government to take to promote the use of technology and innovation for gender equality center on “providing equal opportunities for girls and women to study and work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)” (60 percent) and “increasing safety of digital spaces for girls and women” (60 percent).**



FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

- ➔ **The sixth most prioritized area to advance gender equality in Mexico is feminist action for climate justice,** with five percent ranking “promote women’s participation in climate change action” as a top priority. Seventeen percent of respondents identify this as a top-three important area.
- ➔ To promote women’s participation in efforts to respond to climate change, 63 percent of respondents think that the Mexican government should “promote the training and hiring of women in jobs related to climate change.”



FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ➔ **Eighty-two percent of respondents in Mexico think that the government should “increase funding for gender equality in Mexico.” In addition, 78 percent believe that the government should “increase its funding for international projects and organizations fighting for gender equality around the world.”** A higher proportion of younger respondents support increased funding for gender equality, particularly internationally (81 percent among respondents aged 18 to 24, compared with 68 percent among those 60 and older). This figure is even higher among younger female respondents (aged 18 to 24), of whom 87 percent support more funding for gender equality projects domestically and 83 percent support international funding.

- ➔ Sixty-four percent of respondents in Mexico “agree” that “achieving gender equality is essential to end poverty in all countries,” compared with 10 percent who “disagree.”



WHAT ACTIONS ARE RESPONDENTS IN MEXICO WILLING TO TAKE?

- ➔ To encourage policymakers to tackle gender inequality around the world, 58 percent of respondents would be willing to “promote gender equality in everyday conversations and interactions.” Forty-seven percent would be willing to “vote in an election for a candidate supporting gender equality” (55 percent of respondents aged 60 and older; 41 percent of those aged 18 to 24), and the same proportion (47 percent) would be willing to “share information about gender equality on social media.” Only three percent of respondents say they would not be willing to consider any of the actions proposed for global gender equality.



IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- ➔ Forty-two percent of respondents “disagree” that “the government’s response to support people through the Covid-19 pandemic in Mexico has met the needs of women and men equally,” while 37 percent “agree.”
- ➔ Eighty-seven percent of respondents “agree” that “women should be involved in all aspects of the global health response and recovery efforts to Covid-19,” while three percent “disagree.”
- ➔ There is disagreement as to whether Covid-19 will exacerbate inequality between men and women. Overall, more respondents “disagree” (33 percent) than “agree” (30 percent), but even more say “neither” (34 percent). Disagreement with the statement is driven more by male respondents (40 percent).

More female (41 percent) than male respondents (30 percent) have experienced “stress or mental health issues” as a result of Covid-19. Female respondents aged 18 to 24 (58 percent) report higher levels of stress than younger male respondents (35 percent) or females aged 60 and older (42 percent).

This country data sheet is a supplement to *Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action*, a global report on the findings from a 17-country public perception survey on gender equality. For the full report and all country data sheets, please visit: www.focus2030.org and <http://womendeliver.org/citizens-call-for-a-gender-equal-world/>.