Global gender equality by 2030 is off track and the socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic placed it further out of reach.

Despite the effective and inclusive leadership of women in responding to COVID-19, they are still excluded from decision-making and leadership positions.

Many countries around the world lack comprehensive systems to track gender equality, limiting the allocation of public resources to implement laws and policies to support equality.

Over 100 million women aged 25 to 54 years, with small children at home, were left out of the global workforce in 2020, including more than 2 million women who left the labour force due to the increased pressures of unpaid care work.

Working women accounted for 39.4 per cent of total employment before the pandemic in 2019, but made up nearly 45 per cent of global employment losses in 2020.

Accelerated progress is needed to strengthen gender-responsive budgeting to align public financing with gender equality objectives. According to data reported by 105 countries and areas for the period 2018–2021, only 26 per cent of countries have comprehensive systems in place to track public allocations for gender equality, 59 per cent have some features of such a system, and 15 per cent do not have the minimum elements of such a system.

Globally, over 1 in 4 (26 per cent) ever-partnered women aged 15 years and older--641 million women--have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a husband or intimate partner at least once in their lifetime in 2018.

The prevalence of child marriage has declined globally by about 10 per cent in the past five years. However, one in five young women worldwide (19 per cent) were married in childhood in 2021. Due to COVID-19 impacts, up to 10 million additional girls are at risk of child marriage in the next decade.

As of 1 January 2022, the global share of women in lower and single houses of national parliaments reached merely 26.2 per cent, up from 25.6 per cent in 2021.

Mobile phone ownership is an important tool for women’s empowerment. In 30 of 70 countries with data for 2017–2021, gender parity in mobile phone ownership has been achieved, and in 13 more countries, more women than men own a mobile phone.

Available data from 36 countries for 2009–2020 show that, in 30 countries, less than 50 per cent of women have ownership and/or secure tenure rights over agricultural land. In 18 countries, the corresponding share of men was twice as high.
The Engineer Girls of Turkey (EGT) Project concentrates on developing a private sector driven gender equality mainstreaming program to promote female students’ participation in engineering professions, and empowering female engineering students. Project evolves around three main components.

- First component is formulating an analytical framework to show obstacles and developing a long-term evaluation plan.
- Second component is implementing a support program for both female engineering students and high school students.
- Third component is to develop institutional inclusive work models to adopt and advocate gender sensitive approach.

UNFPA has introduced a number of disruptive innovations for women and girls in the past two years. For example, Safe YOU is an innovative, all-in-one platform launched in Armenia, Georgia, Iraq helping women connect with a community that supports survivors of gender-based violence. iCivil is a digital Civil Registration and Vital Statistics platform launched in Burkina Faso to register births in real-time. YouthConnect is a toolkit that helps countries adapt digital solutions to meet the needs of women, adolescents and the most vulnerable. The Geospatial Dashboard on Intimate Partner Violence is an open source platform that helps governments, researchers and service providers use data to better understand the connections between gender-based violence, poverty, education and SDG indicators related to UNFPA’s mandate.