

# LEAVING NO WOMAN OR GIRL BEHIND

**Intersectionality (noun)**  
/in(t)ərsekSHə'nælədē/

**“The complex and cumulative manner in which the effects of different forms of discrimination (such as those based on race, class and gender) combine, overlap or intersect.”**

In other words, whether you are born a boy or a girl, where you live, what kind of work your parents do, which ethnic group you belong to, among other characteristics, determine your chances in life to a great extent.

Averages do not tell the whole story. As these examples of intersectional analysis show, when inequalities combine or overlap, women at these intersections experience acute disadvantage.

By signing up to the 2030 Agenda, governments committed to 'leave no one behind'. This commitment means they must invest in data and innovative research and analysis that make visible the needs of women and girls facing overlapping forms of discrimination. Using these data, inclusive evidence-based policies and programmes are needed that redress past injustices, combat stigma and stereotyping and ensure the voices of excluded women and girls are heard. In doing so, it will be possible to move the promise to leave no one behind from rhetoric to reality.

## NIGERIA

**49.4%**

of **women and girls** aged 15 to 49 have completed **six or fewer years of education** compared to **35.2%** of men and boys.



99.5% of **Fulani women and girls living in the poorest rural households** fail to complete more than six years of education

compared to 4.5% of **Igbo women and girls living in the richest urban households.**

## COLOMBIA



Women aged 18 to 49 living in **rural areas** are



**12 times**

more likely than those in **urban areas** to **lack skilled health care during childbirth.**



living in the **poorest rural households** deliver without the assistance of a skilled birth attendant.

## BANGLADESH

**95.2%**



of the **poorest rural** women aged 20 to 49 in the Rangpur division were

**married before the age of 18**

compared to

**41.3%**



of the **richest urban** women in the Sylhet division.

## PHILIPPINES

**13.7%**

of women and girls

aged 15 to 49 reported **no say in decisions** related to their own health care, own earnings or in large household purchases.



21.8% of **Cebuana women and girls living in the poorest rural households** report that they have no say

compared to 4.5% **Tagalog women and girls living in the richest urban households.**

## KENYA

**73.3%**



of Kalenjin women and girls aged 15 to 49 in the **poorest rural households** have **no access to improved water sources** compared to

**0.8%**

of Kikuyu women in the **richest urban households.**



## IRAQ

During the Iraq war and its aftermath, **adolescent fertility increased 30%** between 2003 and 2010, in part due to higher rates of early marriage.

**25.4%**

of young women in the **poorest households in the Kurdistan region** gave birth before the age of 18 compared to



**9.9%**

of young girls living in the **richest households in the South/Central region** of the country.