

PROJECT OVERVIEW

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



The United Nations recently made gender-equitable access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set the global development agenda until 2030.

Why? ICTs are powerful. They can help to deliver improved healthcare, quality education for all, financial inclusion, more accountable government, and much more. In adopting the SDGs, all countries have pledged to prioritise universal Internet access, and to use ICTs to empower women.

But much hard work lies ahead if we are to translate this vision into reality. A formidable gender gap in Internet access, digital skills and online rights exists - our Women's Rights Online research shows that in many communities,

women are 50% less likely than men to be online and 30-50% less likely to use the Internet for economic and political empowerment. Women face many barriers - including high costs, lack of know-how, and a scarcity of relevant and empowering content - as well as social and legal obstacles to speaking freely and privately online.

The Web Foundation and partners have prepared these gender audits to help countries assess what they need to do to overcome the gender digital divide. Foundation for Media Alternatives has taken the lead, in consultation with other national stakeholders, on identifying concrete steps that government can take in the next year to address the challenges and gaps identified. We hope that this report card and action plan will spark debate and galvanise policy change.

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY:

We based our scores on 14 simple indicators for which reliable empirical evidence exists, and grading was done in the second quarter of 2016. See the accompanying overview for a description of the indicators and sources used. A full methodology is available on our website.



Produced in collaboration with:



With support from:



WOMEN'S RIGHTS ONLINE

REPORT CARD



PHILIPPINES

**Measuring Progress,
Driving Action**

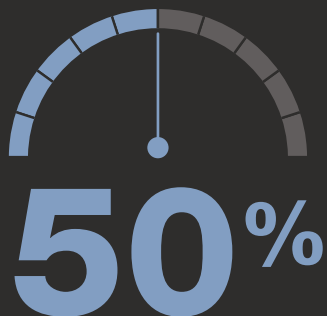


WORLD WIDE WEB
FOUNDATION

PHILIPPINES



OVERALL SCORE:



INTERNET ACCESS & WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT



SCORE: 4

While in urban areas the gender gap in Internet access is closing, our Women's Rights Online study showed that few women in poor areas of Manila have used the Internet to look for important information on their rights (18%) or voice their opinions online (8%).

RELEVANT CONTENT & SERVICES



SCORE: 4

The government makes some information about reproductive and sexual health rights and services available online, but it is often not easy to locate. Additionally, just 5% of women have access to mobile financial services.

ONLINE SAFETY



SCORE: 7

Specific laws are in place for victims of online violence to seek recourse. Law enforcement officers have undergone training on investigating cyberviolence against women, and a few cases have resulted in arrests. A robust data privacy law was enacted in 2012.

AFFORDABILITY



SCORE: 6

In 2015, the Philippines committed resources to establish free nationwide Wi-Fi in public places. A new national broadband plan is due to be adopted within the next year. However, the Philippines has the second lowest Internet speed in the region at 3.2 Mb per second.

DIGITAL SKILLS & EDUCATION



SCORE: 5

The Department of Science and Technology provides digital skills and education training at its Technology for Education Centers. However, 79% of the country's public primary and secondary schools lack Internet connectivity.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN

- 1 INTEGRATE GENDER INTO THE PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL ICT PLAN (2017-2022).** There is a need to incorporate women's voices in the new National ICT Plan. Consultations between the ICT Office of the Department of Science and Technology and women's groups is a priority. Gender-sensitive language and programmes should be included in the Plan, along with time-bound, measurable gender targets.
- 2 IMPROVE INTERNET AFFORDABILITY AND SPEED.** Work towards achieving a new affordability target: 1GB of mobile data priced at 2% or less of average monthly income, as recommended by the Alliance for Affordable Internet; with a speed target of 4 MBps.
- 3 IMPLEMENT INCLUSIVE DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMMES.** Basic hands-on training on how to use the Internet is vital for the digital inclusion of women. Training should include all age groups.
- 4 CONDUCT GENDER AUDITS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCY WEBSITES.** All government websites should be audited to assess the relevance of their content for women, and their effectiveness in supporting women to access information. Women should be consulted on what they require from government websites.
- 5 END ONLINE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.** Online gender based violence has increased in the past few years and young women are the most vulnerable. Workshops and trainings should be held in partnership with women's groups to support women's online safety.