UNESCO

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ONLINE

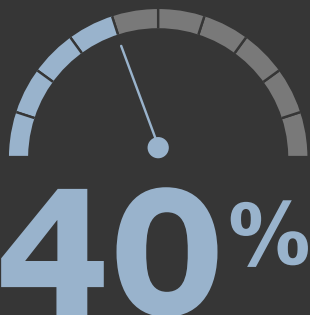# REPORT
CARD

GUATEMALA

**Measuring Progress,
Driving Action**

GUATEMALA

OVERALL SCORE: 4

40%

INTERNET ACCESS & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

SCORE: 3.5

According to official data, only 30.32% of the women use a mobile phone, the 10.17% use a computer and the 27.56% have access to the Internet at national level. Also, the Alliance for Affordable Internet Affordability Report states that the country has an Internet access of 41%. According to GSMA 48% of the women have access to a smartphone. However, it is not clear which type of content they have access to, or if they are using the Internet to generate content.

AFFORDABILITY

SCORE: 3.5

According to the Alliance for an Affordable Internet, the price of 1 GB in Guatemala is US$12.91, which represents 3.51% of the average monthly income per capita,. this is above the UN's threshold of 2% and therefore too expensive for a country with high levels of poverty. Currently, there are not public policies, or any plans that promote free or low-cost access to the Internet. The Digital Nation Agenda lacks institutionalization which prevents its execution.

DIGITAL SKILLS & EDUCATION

SCORE: 5

The Digital Nation Agenda establishes that the Government's priority is to promote access to technology in educational establishments. According to the National Secretariat of Science and Technology (SENACYT) women have less participation in STEM careers. On the other hand, in the field of research and development of technology and engineering, only 33% are women.

RELEVANT CONTENT & SERVICES

SCORE: 4.5

The Government does not provide online information on sexual and reproductive rights, but there are some civil society organizations that provide this information through their digital channels. According to the World Bank, 42.1% of women have access to online financial services, however, there is no official national information on this subject.

ONLINE SAFETY

SCORE: 3.5

Criminal legislation applies to some offenses of online gender-based violence, like the capture, storage and dissemination of non-consensual private material, and obtaining and disseminating images captured by a third party. However, there is no effective legal mechanism that allows women to report this type of violence. Additionally, Guatemala does not have a data protection law.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN

1 **CONDUCT RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES ON WOMEN'S INTERNET ACCESS AND USE.** The Government must research and collect specific data on how women access and use theInternet, to develop comprehensive public policies to reduce the gender gap at national level.

2 **INTEGRATE GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN DIGITAL NATION AGENDA.** To review and foster the governance of the Digital Nation Agenda to ensure its continuity and to include the gender equality in its objectives.

3 **ESTABLISH MECHANISMS TO ADDRESS ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.** Develop skills and awareness on online gender-based violence among the authorities of the justice system to prosecute and punish this violence, with respect for online freedom of expression.

4 **IMPROVE PUBLIC INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE.** The Government must prioritize the deployment of Internet infrastructure to ensure coverage throughout the country, with priority given to rural areas where women are particularly at a disadvantage in accessing the Internet.

5 **PROMOTE DIGITAL EDUCATION AT ALL EDUCATIONAL LEVELS.** Invest in the development of digital skills at all education levels aimed at girls and women. Promote access to content in all the languages.

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. UNESCO 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 first semester of 2020 by Montserrat Vidal and Sara Fratti.. See the accompanying overview for a description of the indicators and sources used. A full methodology is available on our website.