



**WORLD WIDE WEB  
FOUNDATION**

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS ONLINE**

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# REPORT CARD

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**COLOMBIA**

**Measuring Progress,  
Driving Action**

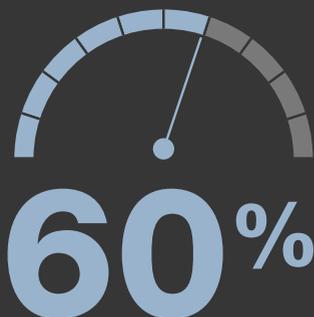


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OVERALL SCORE:



INTERNET ACCESS & WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT



SCORE: 6

The gender gap is closing in Bogota, with 71% of women and 76% men using the Internet. However, men continue to have greater access to computers, and are more likely to access information about health, legal issues, and government services online. Lack of time was cited as a major barrier for women.

AFFORDABILITY



SCORE: 7

With 1GB mobile broadband costing 1.26% of average monthly income, Colombia meets the Alliance for Affordable Internet's *affordability target*. The Vive Digital plan for 2015-2018 pledges to establish more public Internet access centres and to implement subsidies with a focus on connecting the poorest populations.

DIGITAL SKILLS & EDUCATION



SCORE: 6

The Vive Digital plan includes a focus on teacher training in ICT and education. 7 in 10 secondary schools have Internet connectivity. Programmes such as Mujeres TIC ('ICT Women'), focus on ICT skills development for women. However, more can still be done to advance women in technology and engineering.



SCORE: **4**

Civil society organisations provide extensive sexual and reproductive health information online. Although just 2% of women use digital financial services, this may change with new initiatives such as mobile wallets for government social transfers, and free health insurance linked to mobile savings accounts.



SCORE: **5**

There are no institutional or legal mechanisms that allow women to effectively report online violence. Neither training nor clear guidelines are provided to the police or judiciary. However, Colombia does have relatively robust provisions for the protection of personal data.

## CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN

- 1 MAINSTREAM GENDER IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIVE DIGITAL INITIATIVE.** Review the national ICT plan, Vive Digital, to ensure that online gender equality is an explicit priority, with associated targets.
- 2 DEVELOP A NATIONWIDE BASELINE STUDY ON WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGY.** Develop quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure public ICT initiatives and their impact on women. Collect and analyse sex-disaggregated data.
- 3 CREATE WOMEN'S DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES.** Establish training programmes focused on the needs of all Colombian women, aiming to foster access and use of the Internet as a tool for the full enjoyment of women's rights and empowerment.
- 4 SUPPORT WOMEN TO BECOME ICT LEADERS.** Create a national strategy to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers among women and girls. Establish female-friendly spaces for technology development and innovation, and motivate women and girls to become leaders in technology.
- 5 END ONLINE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.** Urgently develop a training and awareness strategy on digital gender based violence for law enforcement and judicial authorities. This should include a large-scale, ongoing national awareness campaign against all forms of violence against women, including online violence, to build a culture of gender equality and tolerance.

# 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. Fundación Karisma 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.



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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women