



TECHNOVATION

TAIFA

The AI Forward Alliance

EVENT TITLE:

A WORLD OF AI DRIVEN TECH:

**ADDRESSING A GLOBAL TALENT GAP
AN EVENT ON THE SIDELINES OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

MARCH 12 • 2024

**VENUE: Accenture One Manhattan West
395 9th Avenue, New York, NY 10001**



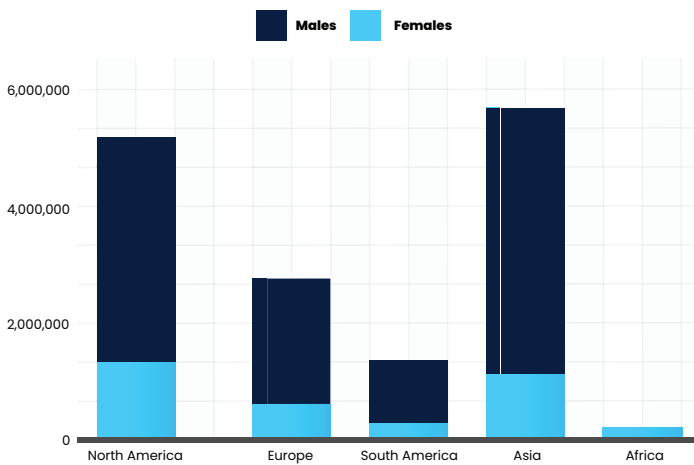
THE CHALLENGE

Only 15 Million Technology Professionals in a World of 8 Billion People!

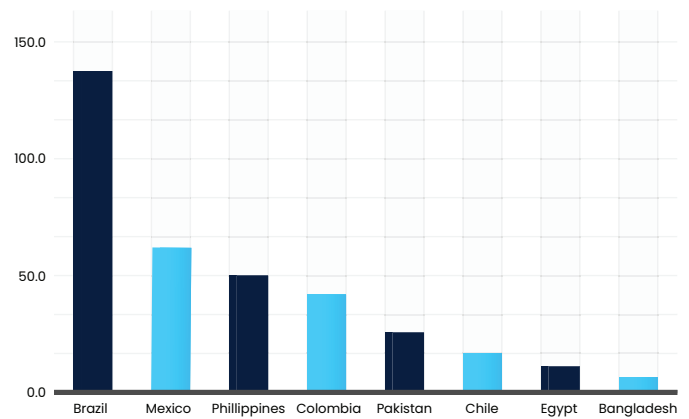
A very small percentage of the workforce is made up of high-skill level jobs that have an outsize impact on world progress. For instance, less than half a percent (0.45%) of the workforce is made of software professionals and more than 70% of this group is male. According to ILO data, there are only 15 million ICT professionals in the world; comprising 11.6 million men and 3.3 million women (graphs below show the geographic spread)¹. Women represent only 28% of engineering graduates and 22% of AI workers ([UN Women, 2023](#)).

¹Not all countries share this data and hence there are significant data gaps

Total Females in ICT and Total Males in ICT



Total Females in ICT (in thousands)



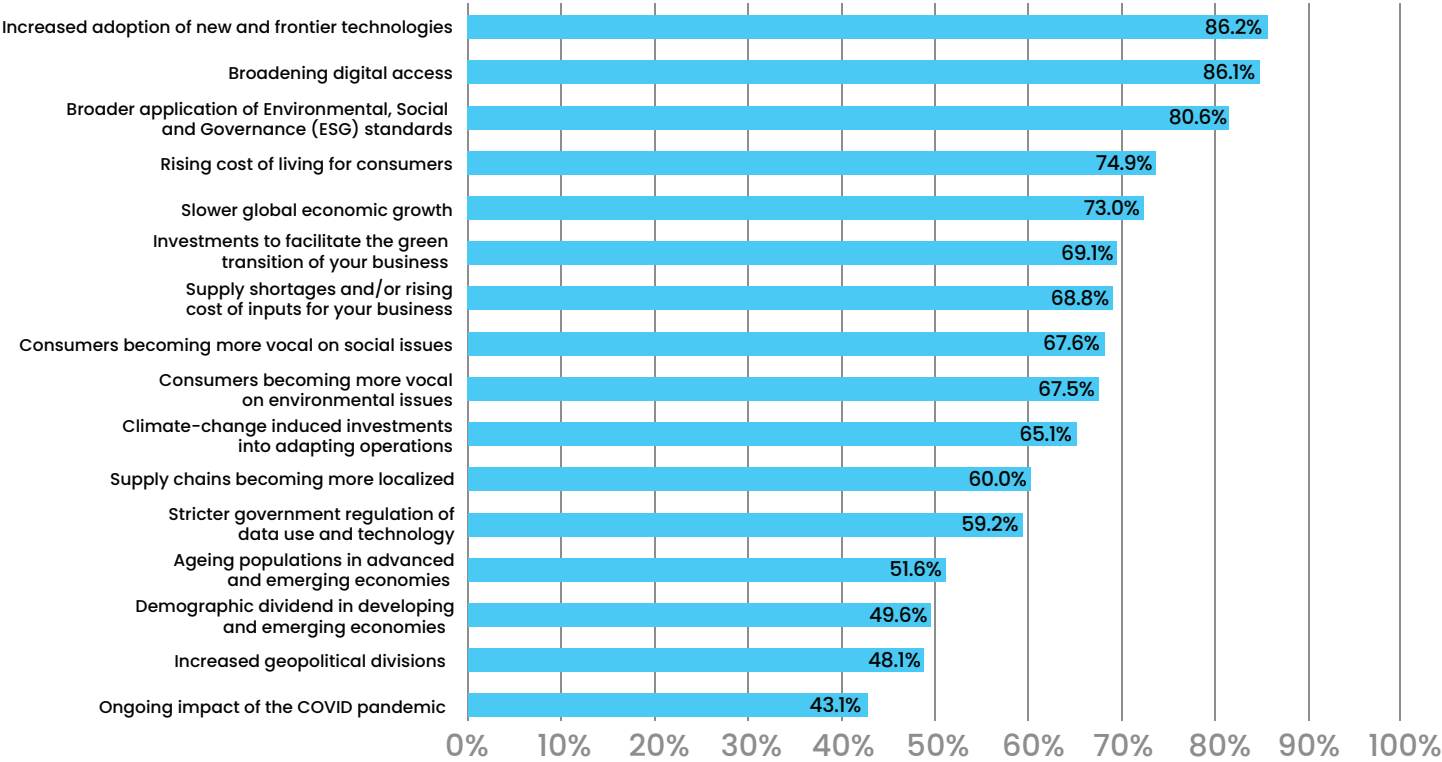
These gender gaps exist downstream in higher education as well, with women constituting less than one third of enrollees in higher education ICT studies ([UNESCO - Global Education Monitoring Report, 2023](#), [UNESCO 2019, I'd blush if I could](#)).

“We’re currently only using a small portion of our collective human potential. Billions of people, the majority of whom are women, have not been able to access technology education nor been empowered to build solutions.”

This scarcity of talent threatens global growth and development given the consensus that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) industries and the adoption of new and frontier technologies are at the center of innovation and economic progress [\(World Economic Forum, 2023\)](#).

Macrotrends driving business transformation

Trends ranked by share of organizations surveyed that identified this trend as likely or increasingly likely to drive transformation in their organization.



Source: World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Survey 2023

Share of organizations surveyed (%)

THE OPPORTUNITY = (The Power of Education) x (Untapped Power of Girls and Women)

Educating and empowering girls and women to become science and technology innovators will ensure that not only are the jobs of the future filled, but more importantly they will be able to drive social well-being, inclusive growth and sustainable development. This is because there is irrefutable evidence showing that educating and empowering girls and women positively impacts entire communities and economies; increasing the earning capabilities of women helps eradicate poverty, promotes lifelong learning opportunities, fosters innovation, reduces overall inequalities and helps achieve SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10.

THE HOW

The AI Forward Alliance (TAIFA) – Empowering 25 Million Female Future Shapers

The AI Forward Alliance (TAIFA) is committed to providing 25 million girls and young women with the skills, knowledge, access, tools and mentorship to both understand how AI models work and to *train, develop and deploy their own machine learning models and transformative technologies* that tackle real-world problems in their communities. The AI Forward Alliance is deeply committed to ensuring that girls and young women around the world have data science proficiency and entrepreneurial mindsets **to achieve their full potential, penetrate the employment and entrepreneurial tech sectors / world** currently dominated by men, and, eventually, directly **contribute to and accelerate** their countries' economies **by driving innovation in different sectors** given the right, relevant education responding to the needs and imperatives of 21st century society.²

² The initial focus will be: 1. Asia: India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines; 2. Africa: Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Kenya; 3. Europe: Spain; 4. North America: US, Canada; Central America: Mexico; and, 5. South America: Brazil, Colombia, Chile

PURPOSE

UNICEF and Technovation realize the strategic potential of global platforms such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as **global advocacy platforms contributing** to bridging the gender technology divide and ensuring that girls and young women can succeed in an increasingly global, digital and hyperconnected world. We propose to bring **women** who have excelled in different areas through **tech-driven expertise to showcase to girls and women that it is possible, through education,** to break the glass ceiling and be **champions and leaders of empowerment** for other girls. It is also an opportunity to **galvanize the support of industry leaders and get their commitment** to empowering girls and young women all over the globe.

Expected Outcomes

1. Giving the center stage to women leaders and innovators to be role models and trailblazers for the next generation.
2. High level engagement of the private sector in supporting girls' and women's education and empowerment
3. Endorsement and commitment to the vision and mission of TAIFA
4. Implementation plan for large-scale skilling of girls and women in data science and machine learning
5. Commitment of resources by key industry leaders, philanthropy, foundations and individuals

unicef 
for every child

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