

February 11 (#Feb11), we celebrate the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science!**



Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 22, 2015, this day highlights the importance of promoting full and equal access to, and participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields for women and girls. It serves as a reminder of the persistent gender gap in science, where women continue to represent less than one-third of researchers worldwide. This day gives us the opportunity to celebrate our female colleagues and to recognize the many women scientists, often underacknowledged throughout history, whose contributions have shaped the STEM fields.

Today, it is also a moment to reflect on the **biases**, often unconscious, that continue to exist around us. These biases are not only present in our own thinking but can also become embedded in the technologies we create, as is the case with Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. AI is now deeply integrated into our daily lives and scientific work, but it can reflect and even amplify societal biases, such as prejudices and gender or race stereotypes, because these patterns are embedded in the data used to train its algorithms. For example, ChatGPT reproduces gender stereotypes when creating educational case studies: "Women are more often represented in problematic roles, with lower levels of education and in low-ranking positions, while men predominate in problem-solving roles, with postgraduate studies and in leadership positions." (Valerio-Ureña et al. 2024). This is a reminder of the importance of staying aware and thinking critically whenever we use AI tools.

\*Illustration by Ame Soler, created for the 11febrero.org campaign.