

Commission on the Status of Women

Challenges and strategies for production and use of gender indicators in the implementation and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals

Francesca Perucci
Statistical Planning and Development Section
United Nations Statistics Division

Introduction

In September 2000, the world's leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration committing to a global partnership to eradicating global poverty and acknowledged that progress was based on sustainable economic growth, with focus on the poor and human rights at the

... system. The Declaration also includes the commitment to develop measures that are time-bound and measurable.

At the national level, the monitoring is based on existing national sources. The indicators are often supplemented by more detailed national data and adapted to the country's specific needs and circumstances. The process of monitoring MDGs has engaged

If women lack the education, influence and money to care for their families and to fully participate in the development process, the Millennium Development Goals will not be met. But gender equality must be realized in all the other areas covered by the MDGs and the empowerment of women should be built into strategies for achieving all of the goals. Just a few examples: over half a million women continue to die each year from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes and rates of HIV infection among women are rapidly increasing (Goals 5 and 6). Among those 15-24 years of age, young women now constitute the majority of new infections, in part because of their economic and social vulnerability.

The MDGs and gender indicators

Progress towards goal 2 "Promote gender equality and empower women" is assessed in

three aspects of gender equality: education, employment and political decision-making. The indicator used to monitor trends at the global and regional levels are as follows:²

groups work under the overall mandate of the inter-agency group, with coordination by the Statistics Division

One of the thematic sub-group was established specifically to address the problems concerning measuring progress under goal 3 and addressing the gender dimensions in all

other goals.

An important part of the work of the gender indicators sub-group is devoted to reconcile and find ways to integrate data from different sources—as in the case of education enrolment and attainment—and to identify indicators that are more suitable for analysis at the national and sub-national levels and can be presented at the disaggregated level for different population groups to be used in country reporting.

The recommendations of the group will be used as a basis for further work in refining the list of official indicators for the global monitoring and for assisting countries to identify national priorities for data production and use.

The discussion and deliberations of the group have focused on the following areas:

- Education indicators
- Employment indicators
- Reproductive health indicators
- Health indicators
- Measures of domestic violence
- Measures of political participation

Education indicators

The group has reviewed the analysis of gender differentials in education based on data from household sample surveys and administrative records and made recommendations to continue work to integrate these two different sources for the monitoring of gender differences in access to education.

Employment indicators

Several proposals were reviewed for the indicator that should be used to monitor progress

4. Share of women in non-agricultural self-employment;

a. Of which: 3.1 informal self-employment;

This indicator could be formulated in two different ways: (i) share of women in each type of employment and (ii) women employment by type of employment as percentage of women total employment.

Reproductive health

The group has considered the inclusion of indicators to monitor the empowerment of women in the sphere of reproductive health. After discussion and consultation with the

consider the following indicators:

- * The "Proportion of Demand Satisfied (PDS)" expressed as the proportion of demand for family planning that is actually satisfied (ratio between the contraceptive prevalence rate, all methods, and the sum of contraceptive

The differences with previous definitions are: (a) the focus on women aged 15-49 (to be consistent with what is available from DHS data) rather than the larger age group, women 15-69; (b) the use in the denominator of only women who ever had a partner (thus at risk of HIV infection) rather than all women. It was recognized that data availability of

The international statistical community also has the responsibility to further develop

consistent definitions and methodologies on MDG indicators; to develop and make
available data and guidelines on the production of necessary data;