

# GENDER IN THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## INFORMATION GUIDE FOR ARAB MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL REPORTS



**GENDER IN THE MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS:**

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**UN-ESCWA**

UNITED NATIONS  
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## Preface

There has been a mounting need at the national, regional and global level for systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective within national statistical systems and in the production of statistics. Although women and men are influenced differently by development and changes in society, there are indeed differences in the availability of sex-disaggregated data across countries. The international comparability of gender-sensitive qualitative and quantitative indicators for evidence-based policymaking is another issue of major concern in statistics.

So far, the production of gender statistics has not kept up with the global commitments to achieving gender equality and empowering women, such as those contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. On the contrary, such a global consensus underlines the importance of developing a single and internationally agreed upon information-gathering monitoring system for gender disaggregated data.

This booklet represents the main outcome of the project "Toward more gender-responsive Millennium Development Goal (MDG) monitoring and reporting in the Arab region" that is being implemented by the ESCWA in cooperation with United Nations agencies in the Arab region. The project, endorsed by the Eleventh Regional Coordination Group Meeting, held in Beirut, June 2006, is aimed at forging a common understanding among

stakeholders on ways to engender quantitative monitoring and reporting on the MDGs, particularly the identification of priority regional gender issues and the development of gender-sensitive measurements in Arab countries.

Towards this end, an Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender and MDGs in the Arab Region, held in Cairo, September 2007, attended by representatives of United Nations agencies, national statistical offices and women's nongovernmental organizations, agreed on measurement tool entitled "G IS IN" Framework. This Framework, which contains a list of priorities areas and corresponding gender-sensitive indicators for the region, is an initial step for Arab countries towards realizing the ideals of the Millennium Declaration and implementing CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.

I hope this booklet, with its in depth analysis of current practices in gender monitoring and reporting in the Arab countries, the proposed framework and the ways forward, will serve as a useful information guide for statisticians, gender experts and other stakeholders with regard to mainstreaming gender statistics in MDGs in the Arab region.



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**On behalf of the Regional Coordination Group**



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# Introduction

The growing need at the national, regional and global level for gender equality and the empowerment of women underlines the importance of developing a single information-gathering monitoring system for gender statistics to provide a follow-up and evaluation process for international agreements, including the goals and objectives of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), within the framework of the United Nations system, is the focal point in the region for follow-up activities on regional and world agreements that deal with gender equity and the advancement of women. With this in mind, United Nations agencies at the Eleventh Regional Coordination Group Meeting, which was held in Beirut from 20 to 21 June 2006, endorsed the project "Toward More Gender-responsive Millennium Development Goal (MDG) monitoring and reporting in the Arab region" and asked the Secretariat of ESCWA to take the lead in the preparation of this booklet.

The booklet consists of seven chapters. The case for engendering the Goals is presented in Chapter I. It presents the background for the change in perspective from "women in development" to "gender and development" that led to a parallel shift in data production on "gender statistics"; it also covers the implementation of MDGs and gender equality in the region; links with gender instruments; and the importance of engendering the monitoring and reporting of MDGs for evidence-based policymaking.

Chapter II provides a synopsis of current practices in engendering the monitoring and reporting of MDGs, including key partnerships, harmonization with international gender-related instruments

and work undertaken to engender statistics. The material is based on a review of national MDG reports and established parameters for gauging the extent to which MDG reports are engendered.

Chapter III summarizes the main gender issues and concerns in the region in the context of each Goal. It also provides a detailed assessment of the availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators in the Arab region for gender-responsive monitoring and reporting of MDGs.

Chapter IV provides information on the different types of indicators - qualitative and quantitative - and presents Goal-specific data sources for compiling gender statistics for each indicator under each of the eight Goals.

Chapter V presents the proposed "G IS IN" framework that links priority gender issues in the Arab region, the Beijing Platform for Action and MDGs to a minimum core set of gender-sensitive indicators devised on the basis of the measures recommended to Governments at the Inter-agency Expert Group Meeting on Gender and MDGs in the Arab Region, which was held in Cairo from 10 to 11 September 2007. The set of proposed indicators in the "G IS IN" framework must be applied in relevant countries in order to obtain data on the situation of women compared with that of men, in different spheres, thereby making it easier to monitor MDGs and compliance with agreements related to the Beijing Platform for Action.

Proposals for improving the availability of data for more gender-responsive monitoring and reporting of MDGs in the region are highlighted in Chapter VI, while Chapter VII presents concluding remarks.



**Chapter**

**I**

## **GENDER AND THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Different approaches to mainstreaming the needs and concerns of women in the development agenda emerged from the 1970s onwards, when there was the realization that development and changes in society influenced women and men in different ways. This was a paradigm shift from the "women in development" approach, which focused almost exclusively on women and the impact of macroeconomic policies on their lives, to the "gender and development" perspective, which examines the relationship between the social and economic roles of both women and men across different spheres of life to achieve better living conditions for both. This change in perspective led to a parallel shift in data production: from "statistics on women" to "gender statistics," or statistics on women and men in all spheres of life.<sup>1</sup>

#### Box 1. What is gender?

- (a) It is a conceptualization of the roles and responsibilities of women and men as a function of culture, religion, tradition, social norms and economic necessity;
- (b) It is viewed differently over time and in different ways from place to place. It is not biologically determined or constant;
- (c) It explains differences between the status, conditions, access to and control over resources, and development needs of men and women.

While it is now very much widely accepted in development literature that gender and gender measurements, including sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive quantitative and qualitative indicators, are the basis for evidence-based policymaking and programme planning for equitable and sustainable gains, the issue, nevertheless, is often not adequately addressed. Box 1 briefly defines the issue of gender.

### A. GENDER AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On the occasion of the Millennium Summit, which was held from 6 to 8 September 2000, 191 countries, including the Arab States, adopted the Millennium Declaration. They thereby affirmed their commitment to peace and security; and to promoting democracy, good governance and respect for internationally agreed upon human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to equitable and sustainable development. Based on the principles and commitments outlined in the Declaration, and those outlined in previous development and human rights conferences and summits, MDGs were adopted as a set of eight "time-bound, measurable" Goals with 18 corresponding targets and 48 indicators that Member States of the United Nations are committed to achieving by 2015 [see box 2 for the eight goals].<sup>2</sup> These goals are mainly aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and improving living conditions for both men and women.<sup>3</sup>

#### Box 2. The Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The Millennium Declaration builds upon the outcomes of 12 major summits and conferences during the 1990s. Serious criticisms, however, have been levelled against the MDG framework. It has been argued that it neither links up with existing international instruments that provide consensus and a framework for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, nor has it substantially integrated the development concerns and priorities of women and men in formulating its Goals and targets. It has also been criticized for lack of gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data.

### B. ARAB IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND GENDER EQUALITY

The commitment of Arab States to the Millennium Declaration and MDGs was reiterated through the Arab Declaration on the pursuit of the implementation of MDGs, which was adopted by the League of Arab States in Cairo on 30 June 2005. It stated the following in its preamble:

*"We recognize that the Arab States have it in their power to give effect to the Millennium Declaration, to face up to the challenges of achieving the targets of MDGs by 2015 and that the pursuit of the implementation of that process will require the incorporation of MDGs in overall national strategies, plans, targets and policies, and the formulation of a comprehensive development policy ..."*

Nevertheless, after seven years of monitoring MDGs, the situation in the Arab region is at best mixed. At the midpoint between the adoption of MDGs and the target date set for their achievement it has become clear that in many development areas faster progress is required. The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2005 recognized the significant advances made in the region since 1990 in health and the education of women. The Arab Human



Development Report 2005 highlighted that Arab countries continue to suffer from underdevelopment and the low status of women, which is reflected in high rates of illiteracy among women, violence against women, poor sexual and reproductive health, low political representation and socio-economic development, unequal civil rights, biased laws and legislation, and low female decision-making powers.

Moreover, The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens highlights the fact that there are sharp disparities among subregions, both in terms of the level of development and in terms of progress made towards MDGs. Indeed, while most Maghreb, Mashreq and Gulf Cooperation Council countries are on track to achieving the majority of MDG targets, the Arab Least Developed Countries,<sup>4</sup> and conflict-ridden Iraq and Palestine lag significantly behind. Regarding this group of countries, the 2007 report anticipates that without concerted efforts by Governments and the international community most of the Goals, including those related to poverty may not be met. It must also be noted that unstable security and political situations in many countries of the region, relatively poor economic performances in the 1990s and the present decade, combined with the inadequate financing of social policies have all contributed towards constraining progress towards achieving MDGs.

Both the 2005 and the 2007 reports on MDGs in the Arab region recognize the important advances that have been made in the region since 1990, noting however, that these gains have not been translated into significantly greater economic and political participation for women. This is clearly shown by the low share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector and by their limited representation in national parliaments. In addition, as illustrated in the Arab Human Development Report 2005, many women in the Arab world continue to suffer from discriminatory laws and regulations, domestic violence, and inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health information and facilities.

Realizing the ideals of the Millennium Declaration and achieving MDGs in the Arab region not only requires a serious shift in political will and a reallocation of resources, both domestically and internationally, but also necessitates collective action in terms of achieving consensus and integrating priority gender issues and gender measurements into the MDG framework. Gender issues must be included in the framework to highlight the realities of women's and men's living conditions, and to highlight their problems and concerns. The inclusion of gender issues is also

required to identify causes and effects with regard to outlining gender-sensitive strategies to overcome challenges; and it is necessary for gender-sensitive measurements, namely, sex-disaggregated data, and qualitative and quantitative indicators, in order to set benchmarks and targets, to monitor and report on progress, as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of development interventions and programmes.

### C. LINKS BETWEEN GENDER INSTRUMENTS AND MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

*"We reaffirm that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security."*

*Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly, 60/1. 2005 World Summit Outcome*

While the Millennium Declaration emphasizes the assurance of equal rights and opportunities for women and men to development without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the MDG framework does not link up with existing international gender-relevant instruments - most notably, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, owing to the absence of sex-disaggregated data and mainstreaming of gender across all Goals.

The Convention, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979, affirms the principle of equality in 30 articles, covering development as it relates to women in the following areas: political, civil, legal, social, cultural, and sexual and reproductive. It also establishes a global agenda for national action to end discrimination against women, which it defines as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."<sup>5</sup>

#### Box 3. Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

- 1- Women and poverty
- 2- Education and training of women
- 3- Women and health
- 4- Violence against women
- 5- Women and armed conflict
- 6- Women and the economy
- 7- Women in power and decision-making
- 8- Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- 9- Human rights of women
- 10- Women and the media
- 11- Women and the environment
- 12- The girl-child

Therefore, the Convention falls directly under the mandate of the Millennium Declaration, which pledges to achieve gender equality and halve poverty by 2015, and affirms the right of every human being to development while promising to uphold equal rights without distinction to race, sex, language or religion.

Backed by 189 countries, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing in September 1995, and provide a significant and comprehensive mandate for Governments to ensure that gender equality and women empowerment are actively addressed as core development concerns. Most importantly, the Beijing Platform for Action identifies 12 areas of critical concern (see box 3) upon which to focus efforts and resources, promotes such international instruments as CEDAW, and also underscores, in its Strategic Objective H3, the importance of collecting sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators.

Linking MDGs to the implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action is crucial for capitalizing on the synergies generated from both processes. The identification of gender issues and an in-depth gender analysis of the processes related to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action is a means of informing MDG work and related interventions with respect to where to target efforts, resources and strategies for CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action can be scaled up to meet the goals and targets of MDGs. In turn, the resources mobilized for the achievement of MDGs, and international political consensus and commitment to achieve the Goals, can be also used to energize the implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.<sup>6</sup>

#### **D. ENGENDERING THE MONITORING AND REPORTING OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING**

At the global level, the Secretary-General reports annually on progress on MDGs to the United Nations General Assembly, with a thematic or special area focus, with more comprehensive reporting performed on a five-year basis. Designated United Nations agencies serve as official sources of data for each of the indicators. Country MDG reports are prepared by United Nations Country Teams consisting of representatives of these United Nations agencies and Governments, every two to three years.

In addition, while reporting at the regional level is carried out by United Nations Regional Commissions in collaboration with United Nations specialized agen-

cies and other partners, the periodicity, scope and focus of reporting varies from region to region. In the Arab region, two regional reports have been prepared through inter-agency collaboration under the umbrella of the Regional Coordination Group (RCG), namely, *The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2005*, which provides comprehensive Goal-by-Goal reporting on the occasion of the five-year review of progress towards MDGs, and *The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens*, which has a thematic focus. At the country level, 20 of 22 Arab countries have prepared at least one country MDG report. The availability of Arab national MDG reports is shown in box 4.

Mainstreaming gender in the monitoring and reporting of MDGs at all levels is necessary for the effective formulation, budgeting and implementation of policy and strategic interventions to assist member countries in achieving the Goals. Thus, in addition to linking up with existing international instruments, engendering MDGs entails highlighting inter-linkages between Goals and the cross-cutting nature of gender.

For example, improving the access of women and girls to basic transport and energy infrastructure, including clean cooking fuels, electricity, water and sanitation supply within or nearby the household (Goal 7) would reduce time spent fetching water and fuels, and allow them to engage in income-generating activities and remain at school, thereby leading to greater economic activity, higher school enrolment and retention rates, and to equality in capabilities and access to opportunities (Goals 2 and 3). Given that women farm-

#### **Box 4. Arab national Millennium Development Goal reports**

Algeria (2005)  
Bahrain (2003)  
Djibouti (2003 and 2005)  
Comoros (2004)  
Egypt (2002 and 2004)  
Iraq (2005)  
Jordan (2004)  
Kuwait (2003)  
Lebanon (2003)  
Mauritania (2002)  
Morocco (2003 and 2005)  
Oman (2005)  
Palestine (2002 and 2005)  
Qatar (2005)  
Saudi Arabia (2002)  
Sudan (2005)  
Syrian Arab Republic (2003 and 2005)  
Tunisia (2004)  
United Arab Emirates (2004)  
Yemen (2003)

Source: ESCWA country MDG Reports available at:  
[http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/scu/coun\\_report.html](http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/scu/coun_report.html).

ers form a significant proportion of the rural poor, bridging the gender gap in the access to farm inputs is a means of increasing agricultural production and reducing poverty (Goal 1).<sup>7</sup>

In addition, investing in women's health, especially sexual and reproductive health, and also in education, would contribute towards reducing chronic hunger and malnourishment (Goal 1), improving maternal health (Goal 5) resulting from, for example, poor access to prenatal, antenatal and post-natal care, poor knowledge of the consequences of closely spaced pregnancies and inadequate access to family planning methods, and also improving child health (Goal 4). Evidence shows that educated mothers are more capable of producing healthy families and educated girls and women have greater control over their fertility, negotiating power over safe sex, which can reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS (Goal 6) and help them to participate more in public life.<sup>8</sup>

Improving women's access to aid, loans, grants, credit and markets to sell their produce, and the greater representation of women in trade and aid negotiations, as well as the participation of civil society organizations, including women's non-governmental

organizations (NGOs), would contribute towards better governance and partnerships in development (Goal 8), in addition to economically empowering women (Goal 3) to be the agents of their own change.

It is crucial for the gender component to be an integral part of monitoring and reporting on the progress of all Goals to ensure a gender-responsive MDG framework. It is for this reason that linking Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and the other MDGs with CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action becomes imperative. It is only through such a link that gender-sensitivity of all the other Goals can be achieved, and gaps and challenges properly identified.

Engendering the monitoring and reporting process of MDGs in the Arab region requires concerted and collaborative action among different partners in international development organizations, women's NGOs, research centres, think tanks and academia in order to achieve consensus on priority gender issues in the context of MDGs and corresponding gender indicators. It also entails the development and dissemination of handbooks and manuals on definitions, concepts and methodologies for more gender-sensitive data collection, analysis and dissemination.



Chapter

# II

**CURRENT PRACTICES IN ENGENDERING  
THE MONITORING AND REPORTING OF  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



A number of initiatives have been launched and effective strategies implemented by development actors globally, regionally and nationally in support of gender-responsive monitoring and reporting on MDGs. These strategies include a broad spectrum of actors and are aimed at building consensus on, and capacities for, integrating gender in all aspects of monitoring and reporting on MDGs.

### **A. STRATEGIES FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE MONITORING AND REPORTING OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The United Nations continues to focus on three major strategies to assist member countries in delivering on gender equality and women's empowerment, which are also designed to enable the possibility of making real progress in achieving all MDGs. These strategies include strengthening a coherent and integrated approach across the United Nations system; strengthening gender equality in national development strategies; and strengthening monitoring and accountability by women on the ground.<sup>9</sup>

Efforts, therefore, have been directed at enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration and building strong partnerships at multiple levels, with various partners and stakeholders, and developing the capacities of national counterparts through advocacy campaigns and technical capacity-building efforts, including statistical capacities to monitor and report on MDG progress with more gender-sensitive measurements. The strategies have also focused on advocacy and capacity building for linking MDG monitoring and reporting processes to those of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action. In doing so they incorporated a gender analysis and perspective in MDG reports, and developed common frameworks or parameters to serve as guidelines for gender-sensitive MDG monitoring and reporting.

In addition, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to identify parameters to serve as guidelines in the preparation of more gender-sensitive reports and in the monitoring of progress as described in Chapter III.

### **B. KEY PARTNERSHIPS**

In his report "In larger freedom: Towards development, security and human rights for all", the Secretary-General of the United Nations emphasizes the need for regional and global partnerships so that States, civil society, private sector and intergovernmental institutions work together to mobilize resources and coordinate to advance the causes of

security, development and human rights, which are inseparable and interlinked.<sup>10</sup>

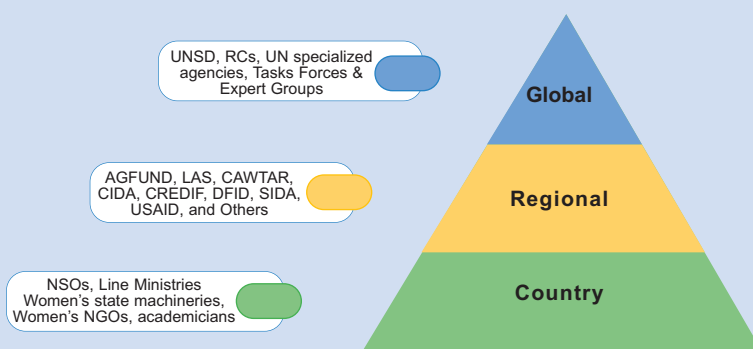
Partnership building and expansion for gender-responsive MDG monitoring and reporting is necessary to ensure stakeholder ownership and to reflect realities on the ground. Partnerships are also vital at the global level in the form of coordinated and collaborative efforts among international organizations, including all organizations of the United Nations, other multilateral and bilateral donors and partners for the optimal utilization of resources, both human and financial, and to build on the synergies of various initiatives and efforts.

Partnership at the country level is needed to engage both State and non-State actors as responsible partners in preparing national MDG reports (see box 5). Different partners include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) High- and mid-level staff of Government units/departments responsible for incorporating gender issues in national development plans;
- (b) Statisticians from national statistical offices, who collect, analyze and disseminate statistics on gender issues in participating countries;
- (c) Gender and Focal Units in line Ministries and statistical offices, which have been established in more than one-third of Arab countries, for example, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syrian Arab Republic;
- (d) United Nations bodies and sister organizations;
- (e) Bilateral donors;
- (f) NGOs working in the field of gender and development;
- (g) CEDAW and Beijing advocates;
- (h) Academicians;
- (i) Think tanks and research centres;
- (j) Media and information networks;
- (k) Private sector.

It is crucial that all of these players work according to a unified vision and common criteria, and always involve the targeted population at the local community level.

#### Box 5. Partnerships in the Arab region



### C. HARMONIZATION WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS: CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Current efforts to enhance gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting on MDGs have included a review of CEDAW, the Beijing Platform of Action and MDG frameworks. This review is aimed at identifying how the three frameworks support and complement each other and how they map gender equality issues raised in each Goal against corresponding CEDAW or Beijing obligations and commitments. They make recommendations to integrate the findings and recommendations of the national CEDAW committees and Beijing national plans of action and reviews with MDG reporting (see Chapter III, Section A).<sup>11</sup>

### D. ENGENDERING STATISTICS FOR BETTER MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In order to engender monitoring and reporting, quality and policy-relevant gender statistics and indicators are needed to shed light on priority gender issues and gaps in the context of the MDG framework. They are also needed in relation to such existing frameworks as CEDAW and Beijing, to set targets and benchmarks, and to track progress. While the production of gender statistics is fundamentally the responsibility of national statistical offices and line Ministries, Strategic Objective H3 of the Beijing Platform for Action recognizes the vital role of such international organizations as the United Nations, in producing disaggregated gender data, improving concepts and methods of data collection, as well as strengthening vital statistical systems and incorporating gender analysis into publications and research work.

A wide range of initiatives and activities have been undertaken at the global, regional and national levels regarding development and application of gender indicators. Work on gender statistics has focused on evaluating and improving definitions, concepts and methods, improving skills in data production, and assisting in data compilation, analysis and dissemination. This has resulted in the preparation and dissemination of technical manuals, guidelines and handbooks, numerous training workshops and study visits targeting various users and producers of statistics, a number of gender-based statistical reports and publications on women and men, and the development of gender statistics programmes. Box 6 presents selected technical materials for engendering statistics.

#### Box 6. Selected technical materials for engendering statistics

- (a) United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), *Handbook for the Development of National Statistical Databases on Women and Development*, 1989;
- (b) UNSD, *Methods of Measuring Women's Participation in the Informal Sector*, 1990;
- (c) UNSD, *Methods of Measuring Women's Economic Activity - Technical Report*, 1993;
- (d) Statistics Sweden, *Engendering Statistics: A Tool for Change*, 1996;
- (e) Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), *Guide to Gender-sensitive Indicators*, 1997;
- (f) UNSD, *Handbook for Producing National Statistical Reports on Women and Men*, 1997;
- (g) UNSD, *Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (Wistat)*, Version 4, on CD-ROM, 2000;
- (h) UNSD, *Indicators for Monitoring MDGs - Definition, Rationale, Concepts and Sources*, 2003;
- (i) United Nations, *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*, 2005;
- (j) Food and Agriculture Organization, "Gender sensitive indicators: A key tool for gender mainstreaming," 2001;
- (k) International Labour Organization (ILO), *Qualitative and Quantitative Indicators for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the ILO Gender Mainstreaming Strategy*.

Under the umbrella of the Millennium Project that was commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2002, the Millennium Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, and nine other bodies, were established to make recommendations for policy intervention needs to achieve MDGs.<sup>12</sup>

Within its mandate to propose a set of interventions aimed at assisting countries in universalizing access to quality education and developing an operational framework of action to promote gender equality and empower women, the Millennium Task Force on Education and Gender Equality recommended gender indicators in addition to the following proposals:

- (a) Inclusion of additional gender-sensitive, Goal-specific indicators;
- (b) Providing sex-disaggregated data beyond Goal 3;
- (c) Including comprehensive situation analysis based on a gender framework;
- (d) Complementing quantitative data (to measure outputs and rates) with qualitative data to capture the different perceptions (before and after a specific intervention), around a priority issue, as well as its indirect and direct impact/outcome in terms of changes in practices and behaviours, both positive and negative;
- (e) Aligning MDGs to such rights instruments as CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, and also localizing targets after redefining them;
- (f) Tracking investment in resource allocation to monitor gender-sensitive implementation of MDGs;
- (g) Establishing linkages between all Goals.<sup>13</sup>

The Economic Commission for Africa has developed The African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) which comprises two parts: a Gender Status Index and an African Women's Progress Scoreboard. The first measures relative gender inequalities based on quantitative indicators on education, health, income time use, employment, access to resources, and formal and informal political representation. The second measures progress made in women's empowerment and advancement. With this in mind, AGDI is a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures. It incorporates time-use and ownership of rural/urban plots, houses and land, and is in line with the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW and other conventions on women.<sup>14</sup>

## E. ENGENDERING STATISTICS IN THE ARAB REGION

Cross-country data are still lacking on many topics that are important for assessing inequalities between women and men within and across countries and for addressing key issues, such as women's work in the informal sector and domestic violence.<sup>15</sup> The lack of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators was underscored in the Arab human development reports for 2004 and 2005. Moreover, ESCWA, in collaboration with specialized United Nations agencies and other partners has undertaken several gender statistics projects. "The Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab countries," which was initiated in 1997, covered Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and included a series of regional workshops and national workshops that brought together various users and producers of statistics to engage in a dialogue aimed at achieving consensus on common priority gender issues and corresponding gender statistics and indicators. Under this project, a series on women and men was produced by each country to provide a statistical portrait of the conditions of women and men in various spheres of life. Within this context, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen prepared gender-based statistical publications on women and men.

In addition, ESCWA has been working in close cooperation with the Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology in Iraq, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other specialized United Nations agencies since 2006 to advocate the importance of gender statistics for evidence-based policymaking aimed at achieving gender equality and women's empowerment and enhancing capacities in the production of quality gender statistics under the framework of a project supported by the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund entitled "Development of National Gender Statistics in Iraq".

Other recent projects include "Toward More Gender-Responsive MDG Monitoring and Reporting in the Arab region", which was endorsed by the Eleventh RCG Meeting, which was held in Beirut from 20 to 21 June 2006, and which is being coordinated by ESCWA. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is also leading a Development Account project "Interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health

promotion in MDGs" of which ESCWA is a partner.

ESCWA has also undertaken an assessment of the extent of the availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators in the context of MDGs, which is reviewed in Chapter III, Section C.





Chapter

**III**

**GENDER IN ARAB MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT GOAL REPORTS**

*"Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation actions to be taken" ... "Ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society".*

*The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995), Platform for Action, Strategic Objective H3 and Actions to be taken*

National MDG reports represent a new opportunity to advocate gender issues by facilitating policy dialogue and strengthening national commitment to women's rights and gender equality. Two of the eight MDGs address gender issues and women-specific concerns directly, namely, Goal 3 on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and Goal 5 on improving maternal health. All eight Goals and their 18 targets, involve women to a large extent, both as beneficiaries and potential contributors. The achievement of these goals in a comprehensive, equitable and sustainable manner is impossible without integrating a gender perspective fully into all of the Goals, in other words, engendering MDGs. Effective mainstreaming of gender in national MDG reports is a means of contributing to a range of actions for gender equality, from internal policy dialogues to strengthening of national capacities and statistical systems for data collection and reporting, leading to more gender-responsive programming and resource allocation.<sup>16</sup>

#### **A. PARAMETERS FOR GAUGING THE EXTENT TO WHICH MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL REPORTS ARE GENDER-SENSITIVE**

A gender-based national MDG report broadens the scope for accountability for women's rights and provides greater public visibility with regard to efforts made towards achieving gender equality. A gender-sensitive MDG report catalyzes gender-responsive policymaking and monitoring. It also facilitates more optimal resource allocation. MDG reporting creates a platform for partnerships between national Governments and civil societies, and allows diverse actors in the development process to reach a common agenda for the effective deployment of resources where most needed.

In order to support monitoring and reporting on MDGs from a gender perspective, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to identify parameters or guidelines in preparing MDG reports and monitoring progress towards the Goals. These include a publication produced by the United Nations Development

Fund for Women *Pathway to Gender Equality: CEDAW Beijing and the MDGs* and UNDP's *En Route to Equality: A Gender Review of National MDG Reports 2005*, which was a follow-up to a 2003 UNDP initiative *Millennium Development Goals: National Reports, A Look through a Gender Lens*. While the first highlights the linkages between CEDAW and Beijing on the one hand, and MDGs on the other, the others assess the extent to which MDG reporting has been engendered along particular parameters.

*Millennium Development Goals: National Reports, A Look Through a Gender Lens*, assesses the extent to which gender concerns and perspectives have been mainstreamed into discussions related to various Goals along three parameters: (a) incorporation of gender issues/perspectives under Goals other than Goal 3; (b) mention/recognition of women's issues under Goals other than Goals 3 and 5; and (c) content/perspective of gender/women's issues under each Goal.

*En Route to Equality: A Gender Review of National MDG Reports 2005* presents a revision of all eight Goals, highlights the strong relationship between gender and MDGs, and emphasizes the need for appropriate and Goal-specific parameters to assess progress towards meeting the Goals in an equitable and sustainable manner, which involves and benefits women and men equally. The report reviews a number of country MDG reports, including seven Arab national reports on Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

#### **B. GENDER CONCERNS IN ARAB MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL REPORTS**

While the standard of reporting on women's concerns and/or gender issues in relation to the Goals in Arab MDG reports varies, it can be noted that gender is not reflected as a cross-cutting theme in these reports. Gender mainstreaming in Arab MDG reports is restricted primarily to Goal 3 on gender equality and women's empowerment, and to Goal 5 on maternal health with variations in the consistency of reporting by Arab countries.

In general, there is minimal reporting on 'Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger', in Arab MDG reports. Sex-disaggregated poverty data is minimal to non-existent both at the national and international level. The reports make no reference to gender inequality as a source of poverty. Moreover, few reports identify the feminization of poverty as a priority issue for donor assistance, and no empirical data is presented to support these statements if they are

made. It is also evident that a gender perspective has not been effectively utilized to highlight the disproportionate effect of poverty on women for policymakers. Moreover, MDG reports do not contextualize and localize poverty indicators, and do not make use of qualitative data to highlight connections between poverty, gender equality and other Goals.

The integration of gender perspectives in relation to 'Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education' varies extensively among Arab countries. Most countries have sex-disaggregated data for net enrolment ratios in primary education and for youth literacy rates; and most countries have also narrowed the education gap or have made good progress towards achieving the target. However, issues of concern related to the empowerment of women and women's health have not been analyzed to link educational attainment to securing decent work and equal pay. Moreover, while gender equality is an explicit component of Goal 2, there has not been an attempt to go beyond the data and provide in-depth analysis of the main obstacles to girls' education and drop-out rates in school, especially in rural areas. Countries where the education gap has been bridged, did not link educational attainment to the low participation of women in the workforce and high rates of representation in the low-paid informal sector, neither did they highlight its impact on disempowerment and gender inequality for decision makers.

Most of the country MDG reports have attempted to forge an analysis of gender inequality in relation to 'Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women', and to provide, to some extent, sex-disaggregated data beyond the standard recommended set of indicators using available data to illuminate key elements of gender inequality. Reports highlight economic and attitudinal barriers to girls' education, the preferential treatment of males and their better access to employment opportunities and leisure. Issues such as women's low awareness of their rights, the prejudiced norms that create barriers to women's participation in politics, and the achievement of full and equal legal rights are also noted. The limited scope for employment and the need for support services, including childcare, have also been recognized as some of the main issues with regard to women's working opportunities. However, critical issues, such as violence against women, child marriage and female genital mutilation - referred to as "harmful practices," rather than violations of human rights - call for further investigation, and highlight the need for including legal constitutional provisions for gender equality in Arab MDG reports, to reflect a serious gap and the recognition of determinant factors for women's empowerment. Arab country MDG reports fall short of going beyond Goal 3

and linking education, employment and decision-making opportunities to other Goals that are strongly related to poverty, health, and global partnership. Hence, what was expected to give an impetus to gender equality and women's empowerment as a focused and singled Goal has been underutilized.

While there is no inclusion of sex-disaggregated data in relation to 'Goal 4: Reduce child mortality' at the international level, most Arab country MDG reports examine the under-five mortality rate, and to a lesser extent, infant mortality rates, by sex. Moreover, gender discussions are incorporated in a limited number of reports to include analysis of the cultural and attitudinal factors as a cause for gender disparity in infant mortality. Very few countries have included the issue of son preference and discrimination in health care. Links between gender inequality and various determinants of child mortality, such as the mother's education and health status, have not been discussed either.

Gender issues are highlighted at greater length in relation to 'Goal 5: Improve maternal health', through discussions on access to health services, quality of health services and the presence of trained birth personnel. However, comprehensive reporting on maternal mortality is less than adequate in most Arab countries. For example, the patriarchal norms and cultural barriers that limit women's mobility, autonomy and decision-making in relation to contraception, and sexual and reproductive health-related issues, are not addressed in Arab country MDG reports. Common issues, for example, early marriage and frequent pregnancies, which are the main factors in increased maternal mortality, have not been clearly indicated. Men's involvement in ensuring safe motherhood and adolescent girls' issues are not underlined as important, though they have been identified in some reports.

There has been minimal reporting of issues related to 'Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases' in Arab countries. Culturally, the HIV/AIDS virus is not considered an issue in the region. In addition, over-reliance on the religious prohibitions against sex outside marriage undermines attempts to report on the spread of HIV/AIDS. Women's inability to negotiate safe sex, and their limited access to information about and protection from HIV/AIDS have not been reported. Few countries have customized their MDGs and included more country-specific diseases in addition to tuberculosis and malaria. Moreover, there is no sex-disaggregated data on the incidence or prevalence of these diseases. While recognition of women's vulnerability is established, the reports do not connect the issues of vulnerability and gender inequality.

The linkages between environmental sustainability and gender inequality are essential for achieving Goal 3 and 'Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability', which is another cross-cutting issue, and as important as anything else in reducing poverty. However, gender issues and concerns have not been reported in Arab country MDGs reports. Women are not recognized as significant actors in conserving and sustaining natural resources, or as having any stake in the planning process. Information on access to water, sanitation and housing could be disaggregated by sex, and where data is not available, qualitative linkages with other Goals are required to provide a clearer picture of the situation of women.

The least reported on Goal is 'Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development'. Engendering indicators could provide a good reason for countries to highlight the implications of trade and aid measures with regard to gender equality, and to present information on measures taken to protect human rights and women's rights to national Governments. Indicators on youth employment, and some gender concerns related to unemployment and its consequences for young women, have been reported on in few cases. However, data on youth unemployment, Internet use and access to medicine is not disaggregated by sex as it should be. In addition, establishing linkages between the impacts of trade liberalization on

women's access to resources, labour force participation rates, discrimination in the labour market, access to education, and health is essential in realizing gender equality.

### C. DATA AVAILABILITY BY INDICATOR IN ARAB MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL REPORTS

In principle, gender-responsive reporting on all Goals should not only include gender issues and concerns, and gender-based situational analysis and inter-linkages between the Goals, but also data that highlight differences in roles, resources, power, norms and values across different areas. This implies that there is a need for sex-disaggregated data by indicator and gender-sensitive indicators, including qualitative ones.

In order to highlight the availability of data for gender-responsive MDG monitoring and reporting, an assessment of data availability in Arab countries was undertaken for each MDG indicator and is presented in table 1 below.<sup>17</sup> Countries are categorized in accordance with data availability: 1 data point indicates that data are available for one year, and at least 2 data points indicates data are available for at least two years. This assessment of data availability is based on the latest United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) online database on MDG indicators.<sup>18</sup>

**TABLE 1. ASSESSMENT OF DATA AVAILABILITY IN ARAB COUNTRIES FOR MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS:**

#### Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
1. Proportion of population below poverty line	Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic	Algeria	Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen		

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
2. Poverty gap ratio	Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE	Algeria	Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen		
3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE	Algeria	Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen		
4. Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age		Bahrain, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, UAE	Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen		
5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Somalia		Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		



## Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education		Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Somalia	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Somalia	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen
7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	Djibouti, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Somalia	Qatar	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen	Comoros, Qatar	Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen
7a. Primary completion rate	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Somalia		Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen
8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds	Comoros, Djibouti, Lebanon, Somalia	Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia	Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE, Yemen	Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Mauritania, Sudan, Tunisia	Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Qatar, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE, Yemen

### Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	Somalia		Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt <sup>a/</sup> , Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		
10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old	Comoros, Djibouti, Lebanon, Somalia		Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia	Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE, Yemen	
11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector		Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Somalia	Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		
12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament			Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine <sup>b/</sup> , Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
13. Under-five mortality rate			Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		
14. Infant mortality rate					
15. Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles					

## Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
16. Maternal mortality ratio			Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		
17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel		Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen	Egypt		

## Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
<b>18.</b> HIV prevalence among youths 15-24 years old	Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE, Yemen		Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia		
<b>19.</b> Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	Djibouti, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Somalia	Bahrain, Lebanon, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE	Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen		
<b>19a.</b> Condom use at last high-risk sex	Algeria, Comoros, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen	Djibouti		Djibouti	
<b>19b.</b> Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen	Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic		Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic	
<b>19c.</b> Contraceptive prevalence rate among currently married women 15-49 years old, any method	Iraq, Somalia	Bahrain, Djibouti, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE	Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen		
<b>20.</b> Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years	Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, UAE	Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Yemen	Somalia		

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen				
23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis			Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		
24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected under DOTS <sup>c/</sup>			Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		

## Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
29. Proportion of population using solid fuels	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen				
30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural	Kuwait	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Somalia	Algeria, Bahrain <sup>d/</sup> , Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine <sup>e/</sup> , Qatar, Saudi Arabia <sup>f/</sup> , Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		
31. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural	Kuwait	Palestine, Somalia	Algeria, Bahrain <sup>g/</sup> , Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon <sup>h/</sup> , Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman <sup>i/</sup> , Qatar, Saudi Arabia <sup>j/</sup> , Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		

## Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

Indicators	Countries with no data points	Countries with only 1 data point	Countries with at least 2 data points	Countries with only 1 sex-disaggregated data points	Countries with at least 2 sex-disaggregated data points
<b>45.</b> Unemployment rate of young people 15-24 years old, each sex and total	Bahrain, Comoros, Jordan, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen	Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia	Algeria, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, UAE	Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia
<b>46.</b> Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen				
<b>48b.</b> Internet users per 100 population			Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen		

a/ Only 1 data point for the ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education is available for Egypt.

b/ Data are available at the national level.

c/ Data availability concerning tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS are available for only two countries, namely, Algeria and Bahrain, which each report 2 or more data points.

d/ No data are available for Bahrain for the proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water source in rural areas.

e/ Only 1 data point is available for Palestine for the proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source in rural areas.

f/ Only 1 data point is available for Saudi Arabia for the proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source in rural areas.

g/ No data are reported for Bahrain on the proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities in rural areas.

h/ Only 1 data point is reported for Lebanon on the proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities in rural areas.

i/ Only 1 data point is reported for Oman on the proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities in rural areas.

j/ No data are reported for Saudi Arabia on the proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities in rural areas.





Chapter

# IV

## DATA SOURCES FOR COMPILING GENDER STATISTICS

One of the major challenges with regard to engendering MDG monitoring and reporting is a lack of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators as highlighted in table 1. Most efforts to develop gender measurements have focused on quantitative rather than qualitative indicators.<sup>19</sup> However, both aspects are important and complimentary from the perspective of cross-validation. While the line between the two can be blurred, "quantitative indicators can be defined as measures of quantity, such as the number of people who own sewing machines in a village" and "qualitative indicators can be defined as people's judgments and perceptions about a subject, such as confidence those people have in sewing machines as instruments of financial independence."<sup>20</sup> Sources of information for quantitative and qualitative indicators differ. Quantitative data are usually drawn from censuses,

surveys and administrative records, while qualitative data are drawn from knowledge, attitudes and practice studies also known as KAPs, interviews, opinion surveys, Participatory Rapid Appraisals, observation, and other anthropological studies.

#### A. DATA SOURCES FOR GENDER ISSUES AND MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The collection of data from various sources is necessary for MDG indicators. This section contains a series of tables grouped under the heading table 2 (see below) of indicator-specific data sources pertaining to Goals 1 through 8.<sup>21</sup> In addition, some gender and sex-disaggregation issues are also included for consideration in the compilation of gender statistics and indicators.

**TABLE 2. INDICATOR-SPECIFIC DATA SOURCES FOR GOALS 1 TO 8**

##### Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day	Households headed by women tend to have lower incomes	Household income and expenditure survey; survey on living conditions	Careful when disaggregating data by sex because of difficulty defining head of household
2 Poverty gap ratio	Households headed by women tend to have lower incomes	Household income and expenditure survey; survey on living conditions	Careful when disaggregating data by sex because of difficulty defining head of household
3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	Households headed by women tend to have lower incomes	Household income and expenditure survey; survey on living conditions	Careful when disaggregating data by sex because of difficulty defining head of household
4 Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	Generally no significant sex differences	National household surveys (MICS, DHS, PAP-FAM) <sup>a/</sup>	Sex disaggregation applicable in some social and ethnic groups
5 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	Generally no significant sex differences	Household income and expenditure survey; survey on living conditions	Sex disaggregation applicable in some social and ethnic groups

##### Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
6 Net enrolment ratio in primary education	Education opens doors to employment. It also influences health, marriage and fertility	Country Ministry of Education; household surveys	Disaggregation by sex required
7 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	Girls more likely to drop out of school	Country Ministry of Education; household surveys	Disaggregation by sex required
8 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds	Girls more likely than boys to suffer from limited access to education	Population census; household surveys	Disaggregation by sex required

### Goal 3: Promote gender quality and empower women

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
9 Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	Education opens doors to employment. It also influences health, marriage, fertility	Country Ministry of Education; household surveys	
10 Ratio of literate women to men 15-24 years old	Girls more likely than boys to suffer from limited access to education	Population census; household surveys	
11 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	Differences between women and men in rates of participation in employment as well as kind of employment	Population census; labour force surveys	
12 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	Women underrepresented in all decision-making bodies	Records of national parliaments	

### Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
13 Under-five mortality rate	Under-five mortality rates normally higher for girls due to gender biases in nutrition and immunization	Vital registration; household survey	Disaggregation by sex if possible
14 Infant mortality rate	Infant mortality rates normally higher for boys	Vital registration; household survey	Disaggregation by sex if possible
15 Proportion of 1 year-olds children immunized against measles	Immunization programmes are generally free of charge and should not discriminate between girls and boys	WHO and UNICEF b/ conduct a review of national immunization coverage worldwide	Disaggregation by sex if possible

### Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
16 Maternal mortality ratio	Maternal mortality is still a major cause of death for women in many countries	Vital registration; household surveys	
17 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Many deaths occur in rural areas where there is a lack of trained personnel	Household surveys	

### Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
18 HIV prevalence among women aged 15-24 years	The unequal status of women places them at higher risk of contracting HIV	National household surveys	Disaggregation by sex if possible
19 Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	Lack of contraception affects the health and well-being of women more than it does their sexual partners	National household surveys (MICS, DHS, PAP-FAM)	Disaggregation by sex required
19b Percentage of population 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Women are more likely to lack knowledge of HIV/AIDS because they have more limited access to education	National household surveys (MICS, DHS, PAP-FAM)	Disaggregation by sex required

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
20 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years	Girls might be more likely than boys to leave school	National household surveys	Disaggregation by sex required
21 Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable	Vital registration; national household surveys	Disaggregation by sex required
22 Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using malaria prevention and treatment measures	Girls may have greater exposure than boys to malaria infested areas due to their role in the provision of fuel, water and other supplies	National household surveys (mainly DHS and MICS, or malaria surveys/modules)	Disaggregation by sex, age, mother's education, and area of residence should be assessed
23 Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	A higher prevalence rate has been found in men at least at older age	Vital registration; national household surveys	Disaggregation by sex if possible
24 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly-observed treatment short courses (DOTS)		Derived from WHO programmes	

#### Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
25 Proportion of land area covered by forest	Women main gatherers of forest products (for fuel, food and fodder)	Derived from FAO <sup>c/</sup> global forest resource assessments, special studies and surveys, national forest inventories and satellite images	Recommend disaggregating users of wooded land by sex
26 Ratio of areas protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area	Women farmers are not included in agricultural and environmental programmes and policies	Ministry of Environment and related Ministries	
27 Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)		National energy data sheets and national income accounts	
28 Carbon dioxide emissions per capita and consumption of ozone depleting CFCs (ODP tons)		National emission inventories of energy or environment ministries	
29 Proportion of population using solid fuels	Women and children are more exposed to indoor pollution and the risk of serious health problems. Women are main gatherers of wood for fuel	Population censuses and household surveys, (LSMS <sup>d/</sup> , DHS)	Disaggregation by sex if possible
30 Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural	Women are more often users, providers and managers of water and responsible for household hygiene maintenance and therefore more likely to be effected if water systems break down	Population censuses, household surveys (MICS,DHS, LSMS) and administrative records	Disaggregation by sex if possible
31 Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural	Women are more often users, providers and managers of water and responsible for household hygiene maintenance and therefore more likely to be effected if water systems break down	Population censuses, household surveys (MICS,DHS, LSMS) and administrative records	Disaggregation by sex if possible
32 Proportion of households with access to secure tenure	Housing has multiple purposes for women as a place of employment, care for children and refuge from violence and social instability. However, women are excluded from and discriminated against in control over housing, inheritance and ownership rights, and housing construction	Household surveys (DHS, MICS and Joint Monitoring Programme Questionnaires) and population and housing censuses	Disaggregation by sex required

## Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Indicators	Gender issue	Sources	Sex-disaggregation
33 Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/ DAC <sup>e/</sup> donors' gross national income		OECD/DAC	
34 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/ DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)		OECD/DAC	
35 Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied		OECD/DAC	
36 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their GNIs <sup>f/</sup>		OECD/DAC	
37 ODA received in SIDS <sup>g/</sup> as proportion of their GNIs		OECD/DAC	
38 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and from LDCs, admitted free of duty		UNCTAD, World Bank and WTO <sup>h/</sup>	
39 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products, textiles and clothing from developing countries		UNCTAD, World Bank, WTO and OECD	
40 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP <sup>i/</sup>		OECD, World Bank	
41 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity		OECD and WTO	
42 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC <sup>j/</sup> decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)		IMF <sup>k/</sup> and World Bank	
43 Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative		IMF and World Bank	
44 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services		World Bank	
45 Unemployment rate of young people 15-24 years old, each sex and total	Women are more vulnerable to unemployment than men. Unemployment data do not reflect women's situation in labour market, particularly informal work. Possibility of undercounting women's unemployment	Labour force surveys, administrative records, official national estimates and population censuses	Disaggregation by sex is required
46 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis		WHO	
47 Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population		Response to ITU <sup>l/</sup> questionnaire and administrative registers	
48 Personal computers in use and internet users per 100 population	Household surveys that collect data on information and communication technologies provide a breakdown by sex and indicate more men than women Internet users.	Response to ITU questionnaire or national surveys	Disaggregate by sex, age, frequency of use, household income and others

a/ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM).

b/ World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

c/ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

d/ Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS).

e/ Official Development Assistance (ODA); Least Developed Countries (LDCs); Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

f/ Gross national incomes (GNIs).

g/ Small island developing States (SIDS).

h/ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); World Trade Organization (WTO).

i/ Gross domestic product (GDP).

j/ Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

k/ International Monetary Fund (IMF).

l/ International Telecommunication Union (ITU).



## Chapter

# V

## **"G IS IN" FRAMEWORK: PROPOSED GENDER ISSUES AND GENDER SENSITIVE INDICATORS FOR ARAB COUNTRIES**



*"Although no number of targets and indicators can capture the rich diversity and complexity of women's lives, they help us to monitor the fulfilment of commitments to women's progress, as well as mobilize support for stronger efforts in this regard ... Assessing the progress of women against agreed targets reveals how much progress there has been - but also how much still remains to be done."*

*Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) 2001*

The diversity - and multiplicity - of gender issues and concerns in the Arab region requires a diverse selection of indicators that are able to address all gender priority issues. These must take into consideration the vast discrepancy between one country and another or one group of countries and another, and also discrepancies within countries.

Arab countries have categorized the 12 areas of critical concern of the Beijing Platform for Action according to two levels of priority, as reported in the *Arab Regional Report on the Ten-year Review and Appraisal of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action*. With this in mind, Arab countries, committed to the Millennium Declaration, realize the need for a common framework for the development of the Arab community. Similarly, Arab countries also realize the importance of a common Arab MDG framework that is adequate with regard to the development agenda of the region and its regional-specific needs, despite the fact that limited efforts have thus far been exerted in this direction.<sup>22</sup>

Table 3 below illustrates the linkages between the Goals and the Arab Beijing Priority Areas of Concern as a basis for the development of a comprehensive framework.

**TABLE 3. LINKAGES BETWEEN THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ARAB COUNTRIES' BEIJING PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN**

Millennium Development Goals		Beijing Platform for Action Priority Areas of Concern for Arab countries	
		First level priority	Second level priority
<b>G1</b>	<b>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	<i>Women and poverty</i>	
<b>G2</b>	<b>Achieve universal primary education</b>	<i>Education and training of women</i>	
<b>G3</b>	<b>Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	<i>Women in power and decision-making</i>	<i>Women and the economy</i>
<b>G4</b>	<b>Reduce child mortality</b>	<i>Violence against women</i>	<i>Women and the media</i>
<b>G5</b>	<b>Improve maternal health</b>		<i>The girl-child</i>
<b>G6</b>	<b>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>		<i>Women and health</i>
<b>G7</b>	<b>Ensure environmental sustainability</b>		
<b>G8</b>	<b>Develop a global partnership for development</b>		

#### A. "G IS IN" FRAMEWORK

Goals, ISsues and INdicators, or "G IS IN", is a three-dimensional framework for Arab countries that was discussed at the above-mentioned Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender and MDGs in the Arab Region. It provides a measurement tool linking MDGs and the Beijing Platform for Action. The common framework presents corresponding priority areas for the common issues of the Goals, particularly gender-related concerns, with corresponding gender-sensitive indicators.

Under the column Beijing Platform for Action, the corresponding article is quoted. The "X" under United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005 refers to those indicators proposed by the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, where applicable. The numbers under the column "Official MDG indicators" pertain to the number of the indicator as per the official MDG framework (see annex). For ease of reference, Arab Beijing Priority Areas of Concern have been shaded under the column "Issues", as have indicators corresponding to the official MDG framework and those of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force.

Goals, issues of concern in the Arab region and corresponding indicators, which are illustrated in the accompanying unnumbered tables, are presented below.

## 1. Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

### (a) Income and poverty

The feminization of poverty in the Arab region is reflected in the increasing numbers of poor households headed by women and a lack of adequate social welfare systems. Gender inequality contributes to making women vulnerable to poverty. Preference of sons and discrimination in the provision of nutritional care in favour of boys is reflected in the higher prevalence of malnutrition of the Arab girl-child. The unequal distribution of care work that is not valued as a contribution to development limits women's opportunities in pursuing education and engaging in income-generating employment. Increasing child labour as a contributing component to a family's livelihood and its effects on child education and health is another dimension of poverty in the region that must be monitored and reported on.

tribution of care work that is not valued as a contribution to development limits women's opportunities in pursuing education and engaging in income-generating employment. Increasing child labour as a contributing component to a family's livelihood and its effects on child education and health is another dimension of poverty in the region that must be monitored and reported on.

### (b) Property rights

In many Arab countries women have no legal rights, and social barriers to land or other property and asset ownership render them economically insecure, while also limiting their access to credit, decent work and income, thereby perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Income and poverty	Percentage of population with mean income below national poverty line, by type of household (female single household, male single household, families with children)	<b>Strategic Objective A.1</b> Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty	1	
		Poverty gap ratio for single-headed household by sex (per cent)		2	
		Women's and men's share of poorest quintile in national consumption (per cent)		3	
		Percentage of population with mean income below national poverty line by level of education of household (female single household, male single household, families with children)	<b>Para. 58 (m)</b> "Enable women to obtain affordable housing ..., with special emphasis on meeting the needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household"		
		Number of hours of unpaid work per week for 18-44 year olds, by sex, marital status, with or without children			
		Percentage of vulnerable population recipients of poverty alleviation grants, by age and sex			
		Proportion of children under 5 years old underweight (malnutrition), by sex	<b>Strategic Objective A.1</b> <b>Para. 58 (f)</b> "Develop policies and programmes to promote equitable distribution of food within the household"	4	
		Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption, by sex	<b>Strategic Objective L.6</b> Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work	5	
		Percentage children 10-14 years old working, by sex			
	Property rights	Percentage of all farms in individual ownership that are owned by women	<b>Para. 55</b> ... "the productive capacity of women should be increased through access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology, information, technical assistance and training" ...		X
		Percentage of houses owned by male, female, jointly held			X

## 2. Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

### Education and training of women

Many Arab countries have narrowed the gender gap or have made good progress towards achieving equality in school enrolment at all levels. Nonetheless, half of all adult Arab women are illiterate. Despite this alarming fact, and its ramifications for women's health, access to decent work and equal pay, and also

general economic participation and decision-making, no in-depth analysis of the main obstacles to girls' and women's education, and causes for drop-outs, especially in rural areas, has been carried out. There is a need for monitoring and reporting on the persistent marginalization of women from certain educational domains and specializations, for example, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres and unequal access to educational opportunities at all levels.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	Education and training of women	Net enrolment ratio in primary and secondary education, by sex	<b>Strategic Objective B.1</b> Ensure Equal Access to Education	6	
		Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5, by sex (completion rate, by sex)	<b>Para. 80 (f)</b> "Increase enrolment and retention rates of girls..."	7	X
		Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	<b>Strategic Objective L.4</b> Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development, and training	9	X
		Drop-out rates by sex, level of education (primary/secondary) and urban/rural	<b>Para. 279 (d)</b> "Increase enrolment and improve retention rates of girls..."		
		Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (percentage); and ratio of literate women to men 15-24 years old, 45 years old and over, and rural/urban	<b>Strategic Objective B.2</b> Eradicate illiteracy among women	8 and 10	
		Sex distribution of students enrolled in scientific institutes by specialty	<b>Strategic Objective B.1</b> Ensure equal access to education		
		Sex distribution of teachers in primary, secondary and tertiary level	<b>Para. 80 (c)</b> "Eliminate gender disparities in access in all areas of tertiary education by ensuring that women have equal access to career development, training, scholarships, and fellowships, and by adopting positive action where appropriate"		
		Sex distribution of pupils in TVET centres	<b>Strategic Objective B.3</b> Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology and continuing education		
		Percentage of graduates from TVET centres that find jobs, by sex			

## 3. Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

### (a) Women and the economy

The marginalization of women in the labour market, partly as a result of traditional role-stereotyping, contributes to women's vulnerability in the context of

unemployment, low share of non-agricultural wage employment, and over-representation in lower-paid and non-decision-making positions. Inflexible working hours for nursing mothers and the restriction or lack of paid maternity leave hinder women's economic participation and career development. Gender inequality in pay is another issue of concern in Arab countries.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Women and the economy	Percentage working in agriculture, paid and unpaid	<b>Strategic Objective F.1</b> Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions, and control over economic resources  <b>Para. 165 (g)</b> "... to measure and better understand the type, extent, and distribution of unremunerated work ..."	11	X
		Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	<b>Strategic Objective F.5</b> Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination  <b>Para. 178(g)</b> "Eliminate occupational segregation, especially by promoting the equal participation of women in highly skilled jobs and senior management positions..."		
		Share of women in employment, both wage and self-employed, by type of sector			
		Gender pay gap in earnings in wage and self-employment, by occupation/sector and education (hourly)	<b>Strategic Objective F.1</b>  <b>Para. 165 (a)</b> "Enact and enforce legislation to guarantee the rights of women and men to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value "		
		Unemployment rate, by level of education and sex			
		Share of unemployed youth to youth population, by sex (per cent)			
		Unemployment rate of young people 15-24 years old, by sex		45	X
		Percentage of wages paid in covered maternity leave period	<b>Strategic Objective F.5</b> <b>Para. 178 (d)</b> "Eliminate discriminatory practices by employers on the basis of women's reproductive roles and functions, including refusal of employment and dismissal of women due to pregnancy and breast-feeding responsibilities"		

#### (b) *Women and the media*

The issue of gender and the media can broadly be categorized on two levels, both implicating and affecting each other: the first relates to the participation of women in decision-making and expression in the media; the second is the portrayal of women and gender stereotyping in the media. Gender stereotyping is another major issue in the Arab region in that it restricts women's mobility and limits their access to opportunities. In the Arab region, women are under-represented in media institutions, particularly in management roles, which are largely male-dominated,

thereby perpetuating the culture of patriarchy. There is a gender division of labour where women are usually consigned to 'soft' issues, such as fashion and the arts, whereas 'hard' and 'serious' issues, for example, politics, finance and economics, are usually given to men.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Women in media	<p>Number of women in managerial positions at national newspapers and television channels out of the total number of managerial positions in these organizations</p> <p>Sex distribution of people graduating from media institutes</p>	<p><b>Strategic Objective J.1</b> Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication</p> <p><b>Para. 239 (c)</b> "Promote women's full and equal participation in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research"</p>		

**(c) Women in power and decision-making**

Arab women's participation in decision-making is minimal. It is therefore essential to highlight this discrepancy in order to take measures to ensure women's equal access to, and full participation in, power structures, and increase their capacity with

regard to participating in public life leadership. Unfair civil and family legislation and biased/patriarchal legal systems, gender violence and other gender issues of concern will be effectively addressed when 'victims' are placed in leadership positions.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Women in power and decision-making	<p>Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments</p> <p>Ratio of women to men judges</p> <p>Ratio of women to men lawyers</p> <p>Ratio of women to men ministerial level</p> <p>Ratio of women to men ambassadors</p> <p>Percentage of seats held by women and men in local government bodies</p> <p>Listing of laws and regulations that are conducive to the burdens of parenthood being shared equitably between the two sexes. (These are laws on parental leave, leave for child sickness, rights to nursery places, or others that provide opportunities for men to play their role as fathers)</p>	<p><b>Strategic Objective G.1</b> Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making</p> <p><b>Para. 190 (e)</b> "Monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women through the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data on women and men at all levels in various decision-making positions in public and private sectors..."</p> <p><b>Strategic Objective G.1</b> <b>Para. 190 (i)</b> "Recognize that shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men promote women's increased participation in public life, and take appropriate measures to achieve this, including measures to reconcile family and professional life"</p>	12	<p>X</p> <p>X</p>

**(d) Human security and social justice/women and violence**

As in many patriarchal societies, religion, social, traditional and cultural norms have contributed, in some Arab countries, to a lack of recognition of women and girls' rights as human rights. In some countries, the prevalence of female genital mutilation is very high. In addition, some countries treat "honour"

crimes delicately, whereas they need to be addressed at both the social and the political level. Sexual violation, domestic violence and sexual harassment are also major issues of concern. Workers, whether female or male, are being subjected to exploitation and violence, and are not covered by health insurance or retirement benefits.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Human security and social justice/ women and violence	Proportion of women who experience sexual violence (rape and indecent abuse) that have lodged complaints during the calendar year, divided by the total number of females of all ages, times 100,000	<b>Strategic Objective D.2</b> Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventative measures  <b>Para. 129 (a)</b> "Promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women."  <b>Para. 129 (b)</b> "Disseminate findings of research and studies widely."  <b>Para. 129 (c)</b> "Support and initiate research on the impact of violence, such as rape, on women and girl-children, and make the resulting information and statistics available to the public"		X
		Ratio of women to men in prison per 1,000 people			
		Prevalence of domestic violence (proportion of women who have ever been victims of physical violence by a domestic partner)			
		Percentage of people that have experienced spousal violence, by sex and type of violence			
		Number of women and children annually using shelters			
		Percentage of women subjected to female genital mutilation by age			
		Number of honour crimes			
		Proportion of murders committed by the spouse, by sex of victim			
		Percentage of female domestic workers who have experienced physical (or other) abuse or sexual harassment			
		Percentage of workers with health insurance, by sex			
		Percentage of workers with retirement benefits, by sex			
	Institutional mechanisms to improve the status of women	Percentage of Ministries, departments and institutions in which gender units have been established (institutionalizing inter-ministerial relations in policy areas)	<b>Para. 57</b> "...Integration of the gender perspective in general policies relating to all spheres of society as well as the implementation of positive measures with adequate institutional and financial support at all levels  <b>Para. 203 (a)</b> "Ensure that responsibility for the advancement of women is vested in the highest possible level of Government; in many cases, this could be at the level of a Cabinet minister"  <b>Para. 203 (b)</b> "Based on a strong political commitment, create a national machinery, where it does not exist, and strengthen, as appropriate, existing national machineries, for the advancement of women at the highest possible level of		
		Total annual budget of the office of gender affairs to the total number of women of all ages, in dollars (political will index)			



Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Institutional mechanisms to improve the status of women		government; it should have clearly defined mandates and authority; critical elements would be adequate resources and the ability and competence to influence policy and formulate and review Legislation..."		
	Women, conflict and war	Number of programmes currently in operation that are designed specifically to provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, by type of organization responsible	<p><b>Strategic Objective E.5</b> Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women</p> <p><b>Para. 147 (a)</b> Take steps to ensure that women are fully involved in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all short-term and long-term projects and programmes providing assistance to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, including the management of refugee camps and resources..."</p>		
	Women and human rights	List of laws prescribing specific legal action against domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape and the sex trade	<p><b>Strategic Objective D.1</b> Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women</p> <p><b>Para. 124 (c)</b> "Enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence..."</p>		
		Proportion of State/public officials trained annually in human rights and humanitarian law for women and men	<p><b>Strategic Objective I.1</b> Promote and protect the human rights, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence</p> <p><b>Para. 232 (i)</b> "Provide gender-sensitive human rights education and training to public officials, including, inter alia, police and military personnel, correction officers, health and medical personnel, and social workers... and teachers at all levels of the education system and make avail-</p>		

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Women and human rights		able such education and training also to the judiciary and members of parliament in order to help them to better exercise their public responsibilities"		
		CEDAW Ratification without reservation	<b>Strategic Objective I.1</b> <b>Para. 230 (i)</b> "Report on schedule to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding the implementation of the Convention..."		
		Submission of country CEDAW reports			
		Ratification (3-point scale measure) of United Nations conventions on women's rights and gender equality (Convention on the Political Rights of Women, Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages)			

#### 4. Goals 4: Reduce child mortality

##### Girl-child

Imbalanced sex ratios for children aged one and under reveal persistent preferential treatment of male infants. Patriarchal traditions and cultural norms in many Arab countries justify and perpetuate the bias against the girl-child and the preference of sons. This bias results in less breastfeeding for girls than boys in infancy, and more comprehensive immunization for

boys. Poor women may also forsake the care of a girl-child in terms of nutrition and other related expenses in favour of other family members. It is important to investigate gender inequality and various determinants of child mortality, for example, mothers' education, economic and health status. In addition, in many Arab countries the marriage of girl-children continues to be a significant issue that has serious effects on both the health of the girl child/mother and her infant.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	Girl-child health	Life expectancy at birth, by sex (years)	<b>Strategic Objective L.5</b> Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition  <b>Para. 281 (b)</b> "Sensitize the girl-child, parents, teachers and society concerning good general health and nutrition and raise awareness of the health dangers and other problems connected with early pregnancies"		
		Under-five mortality rate, by sex		13	
		Infant mortality rate, by sex		14	
		Proportion of 1-year-olds immunized against measles, by sex		15	
		Percentage of women marrying below legal age of marriage			

#### 5. Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Women in many Arab countries still lack access to quality health services, including trained birth personnel. High fertility rates among illiterate women, early marriage, and frequent pregnancies are the main factors contributing to increased maternal mortality.

There are gender discrepancies in accessing public health and health information services, protective methods against sexually transmitted diseases, and family planning counselling and support. In addition, there is a high rate of prevalence of breast and cervical cancer among Arab women.



Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators <sup>2</sup>	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	Reproductive health and women's health issues	Maternal mortality ratio		16	X
		Contraceptive prevalence rate		19c	
		Proportion of contraceptive demand satisfied			
		Unmet need for family planning			
		Condom use at last high-risk sex	<b>Strategic Objective C.1</b> Increase women's access throughout the lifecycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services	19a	
		Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel		17	
		Prevalence of cervical cancer among women (number of women aged 35 and over diagnosed for every 1,000 women aged 35 and over)	<b>Strategic Objective C.3</b> Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually-transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues		
		Number of cervical cancer screening examinations carried out (coverage) annually by health systems divided by the number of women aged 15 and over (per cent)			
		Prevalence of breast cancer among women (number of women aged 35 and over diagnosed for every 1,000 women aged 35 and over)			
		Percentage of women who attend health centres during pregnancy-prenatal care			
		Total fertility rate by education			
		Adolescent fertility rate for 15-19 year-olds	<b>Strategic Objective L.5</b> Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition  <b>Para. 281 (b)</b> "Sensitize the girl-child, parents, teachers and society concerning good general health and nutrition and raise awareness of the health dangers and other problems connected with early pregnancies"		X

## 6. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

### General health issues

Addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS is hindered by social, religious and traditional beliefs and practices

that consider the disease external to cultural norms and way of life. In general, Arab women are not able to negotiate safe sex and have limited access to information and protection with regard to HIV/AIDS, resulting in increasing rates of HIV/AIDS infection

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	General health	HIV prevalence among pregnant women 15-24 years old, by sex	<b>Strategic Objective C.3</b> Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues	18	
		Percentage of population 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, by sex		19b	

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	General health	Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria, by sex	<b>Strategic Objective C.2</b> Strengthen preventative programmes that promote women's health	21	
		Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures, by sex		22	
		Prevalence and death rates associated with Tuberculosis, by sex		23	
		Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis, by sex		46	

## 7. Goals 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

### Women and the environment

The marginalization of rural areas is mostly reflected in unequal access to safe water and adequate sani-

tation, and mostly affects the livelihood and health of women and children. The heavy burden on girls and women as a result of a lack of or poor infrastructure increases their vulnerability.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	Women and the environment	Percentage of population with access to improved sanitation, by sex, rural/urban	<b>Strategic Objective K.2</b> Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development	31	
		Percentage of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, by sex, rural/urban		30	
		Proportion of population using solid fuels, by sex, rural/urban		29	

## 8. Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

### Women and information and communication technologies

Gender disparity among youth is manifested in high

unemployment rates for young women and unequal access to information technology, including the Internet. It is linked to limited access of girl to educational opportunities and the preference of sons over girls in acquiring latest technologies.

Goals	Issues	Indicators	Beijing Platform for Action	Official MDG Indicators	United Nations Millennium Task Force 2005
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	Information and communication technologies	Telephone lines and cellular subscriptions per 100 population, by sex	<b>Strategic Objective J.1</b> Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication	47	
		Personal computers in use per 100 population and Internet users per 100 population, by sex		48a	
		Internet users per 100 population, by sex and urban rural		48b	



Chapter

# VI

## **TOWARDS MORE GENDER-RESPONSIVE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

*"The basic strategy with gender-sensitive indicators is one of using quantitative and qualitative methods in combination to measure gender-related changes in society over time."*

*Canadian International Development Agency, Guide to Gender-sensitive Indicators, August 1997*

While global goals and commitments related to gender equality and the empowerment of women have been articulated, they are still far from being fully implemented. Achieving these goals requires a genuine change in values and attitudes, a transformation of gender relations, and the ability to work in partnership and in coordination to ensure that gender concerns, problems and issues in the field are reflected in development policies and plans.<sup>23</sup>

A major factor contributing to the continuing gap between policy and practice is lack of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators, which are needed for regular monitoring and for measuring progress.

Despite the fact that sex-disaggregated data are reported in some modalities at different levels, this is not a consistent practice. It is crucial to break down data by sex, age and geographical location to facilitate the identification of the target group or area upon which to focus efforts and resources.

#### **Box 7. Checklist for mainstreaming gender in Millennium Development Goal reports**

- (a) Identification of goal-specific gender issues, problems, concerns;
- (b) Identification of causes and effects of gender gaps;
- (c) Identification of legal, structural and social barriers;
- (d) Integration of gender analysis;
- (e) Review of policy frameworks;
- (f) Availability of sex-disaggregated data;
- (g) Availability of data disaggregated according to various definitions, for example, rural/urban, class and ethnicity;
- (h) Inclusion of proxy or additional gender indicators, both quantitative and qualitative;
- (i) Cross-referencing of overlapping or related targets and indicators between goals;
- (j) Highlighting interconnections between goals;
- (k) Linking to existing instruments, notably the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action;
- (l) Reporting on cost and budget allocation from a gender perspective

Insufficient use of available data for gender analysis prevents effective understanding of gender perspectives in various fields, namely, poverty, unemployment, education, health and violence against women. With this in mind, reporting must highlight the causes and

problems related to reaching the intended goals and targets, as well as consequences. Of equal importance is describing the nature of and cultural circumstances surrounding these issues and causes, and recommending appropriate interventions to eliminate them.<sup>24</sup> This necessitates allocating resources towards achieving the Goals, and can be described as budgeting for MDGs.

In the gender analysis process, the "goals, targets and indicators established in the Millennium Declaration framework need to be 'unpacked' in terms of their gender equality implications; clear strategies should be developed for ensuring that all activities planned to support the implementation of these development goals and targets take gender perspectives into account; and effective mechanisms need to be established for monitoring progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through gender-sensitive indicators."<sup>25</sup>

A checklist for mainstreaming gender in Arab MDG reports is presented in box 7, bearing in mind the parameters discussed in Chapter II and above. In addition, the section below highlights what is necessary to set up technical capacity-building for more gender-responsive MDG monitoring and reporting in the Arab region. There is also a need for partnerships among various stakeholders, effective cooperation mechanisms, gender costing for MDGs and improving gender statistics.

## **A. BUILDING KEY PARTNERSHIPS**

Forging effective partnerships among various actors at the global, regional and national levels, and at the analysis, monitoring and reporting stages, is crucial. These actors include Governments, organizations within the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, including bilateral bodies, NGOs, academia, the private sector and the media.

The participation of high-level Government officials from different Ministries, national institutions and women's bodies is necessary to ensure Government support and commitment, and also national ownership.<sup>26</sup> Targeting high- to mid-level Government officials is also necessary to advocate the importance of mainstreaming gender, utilizing gender statistics and indicators in the policymaking cycle, and establishing gender units and focal points in line Ministries.<sup>27</sup>

The development of policy-relevant quantitative and qualitative gender statistics and indicators requires collaboration between users and producers of data, and in this regard national statistical offices play a

major role. Any effort to improve the availability of data must include central statistical offices and other national statistical offices in line Ministries and Government departments, owing to their central role in providing official statistics at the national level, which in turn feed into providing official statistics at the regional and global level.

International organizations, including the United Nations, play a crucial role in advocating the importance of gender mainstreaming and the development of gender statistics; assisting in the development of definitions, concepts and methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination; preparing and disseminating technical manuals and guidelines; and providing technical capacity-building assistance to countries in line with their needs. The Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender and MDGs in the Arab Region recommended that ESCWA, in cooperation with other agencies, should provide national statistical offices in the region with the required technical support in order to build their capacities by providing advisory services, organizing workshops and arranging for fellowships.<sup>28</sup>

Substantial funding is needed to implement and coordinate all such activities. Accordingly, United Nations agencies are also instrumental in fostering collaboration among the various actors, coordinating efforts at the global, regional and national level, and in raising and allocating funds.<sup>29</sup>

## **B. ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE COOPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS**

Networks and a common regional platform for sharing information and managing knowledge must be established to support and institutionalize the mainstreaming of gender in project and programme planning and policymaking, and also to support the development of gender statistics in Arab countries. This point was reiterated at the Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender and MDGs, which recommended the establishment of a regional task force on gender statistics, and the development and maintenance of a common regional platform for knowledge management and information on gender statistics for advocacy and programme development.<sup>30</sup> Establishing coordination and collaboration mechanisms between data producing and reporting entities both at the national level (between national statistical offices and line Ministries), and at the regional/global level (between such international organizations as the United Nations and countries) is also required to facilitate consistency in data reporting.<sup>31</sup>

At the regional level, cooperation and implementation mechanisms have focused on enhancing exchanges of experience, both in the preparation of MDG reports and the development of national gender statistics programmes, and in joint MDG monitoring and reporting, as exemplified by the inter-agency preparation of the regional Arab MDG reports for 2005 and 2007. Cross-country experience-sharing opens up the possibility for new opportunities and proposals in other countries.

At the country level, cooperation mechanisms and a common platform must be established to localize MDGs. This would contribute towards supporting the decentralization of reforms and strengthening capacities at the subnational, local and civil society level.<sup>32</sup>

## **C. GENDER COSTING FOR THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

"Achieving MDG 3 and gender equality investment in other goals costs money - a fact often overlooked by Governments in rich and poor countries alike." <sup>33</sup> Budget allocation increases must be considered in terms of external resources to promote and finance gender equality interventions. Increased domestic resource commitments must also be dedicated to supporting these interventions.<sup>34</sup> Several studies have estimated the financing requirements of achieving gender equality in education and health, and also providing reproductive health services. The World Bank, for instance, has estimated that achieving gender equality in primary education through universal enrolment requires an increase of slightly more than 3 per cent per year in public spending on primary education in the Middle East.<sup>35</sup> Supporting gender costing for MDGs also requires the inclusion of an indicator on the percentage of MDG costs allocated to gender mainstreaming interventions within the eight Goals.<sup>36</sup>

## **D. IMPROVING GENDER STATISTICS**

Moving towards more gender-responsive MDG monitoring and reporting in the Arab region not only requires significant and broad-based partnerships, effective cooperation mechanisms and gender costing, but also the strengthening of national statistical systems in the Arab region, particularly with regard to improving gender statistics.

Improving gender statistics requires an assessment of available data (see Chapter II) with a view to identifying data gaps and data requirements, and necessary data collection efforts. Identifying new gender statistics can be done in the following stages:

- (a) Identifying specific national gender issues;
- (b) Investigating thoroughly the underlying causes, problems/concerns and consequences; and proposing appropriate indicators to measure them;
- (c) Identifying data gaps.<sup>37</sup>

However, consensus among stakeholders regarding the criteria for selecting indicators is needed. For example, priority should be given to initiating such a process with available indicators from official statistics that are based on internationally recognized principles, standards and classifications. A second priority is to select indicators with available data that may not be aligned with national and international standards from alternative sources. National statistical offices are equipped with appropriate tools and procedures to align these indicators with international standards, and to produce and disseminate them as official statistics on a regular basis. A third level of priority would relate to desired indicators, but with no available official data this could also include qualitative data. National statistical offices could start the process by developing appropriate methodologies aligned with international standards and classifications and enhancing their statistical capacities accordingly.<sup>38</sup>

### 1. Identifying national gender issues

National statistical systems produce gender statistics on the basis of identified problems and goals. Each gender issue, for example, decision-making, economic life, family and household, laws, health, violence and education, must be investigated in order to identify underlying causes, to assess the effects and to understand the interrelations of different issues. The following exercise illustrates how to identify new gender issues that require new statistics and indicators and how to effect improvements and changes in existing statistics for further analysis. One main common issue is education, which reflects a high illiteracy rate among women compared to men. The box below illus-

trates the underlying causes and consequences of this issue.<sup>39</sup>

### 2. Investigating areas of concern and proposing new statistics

The second step in identifying new gender statistics is to investigate thoroughly the underlying causes, problems/concerns and consequences and then to propose appropriate indicators to measure them. The figure below presents an example of a situation-analysis of a problem area of concern, namely high women illiteracy, the underlying causes and possible consequences. The proposed measurement of indicators for those underlying causes is provided in table 4.

### 3. Identifying data gaps

Good national statistical systems are required for MDG indicators. However, many Arab national statistical systems are not adequate in this regard. This can be partly attributed to inadequate budgets, and also to low human and technical capacities. As reviewed in Chapter II, a substantial number of Arab countries suffer from a lack of data for some indicators. Data gaps can arise for the following reasons:

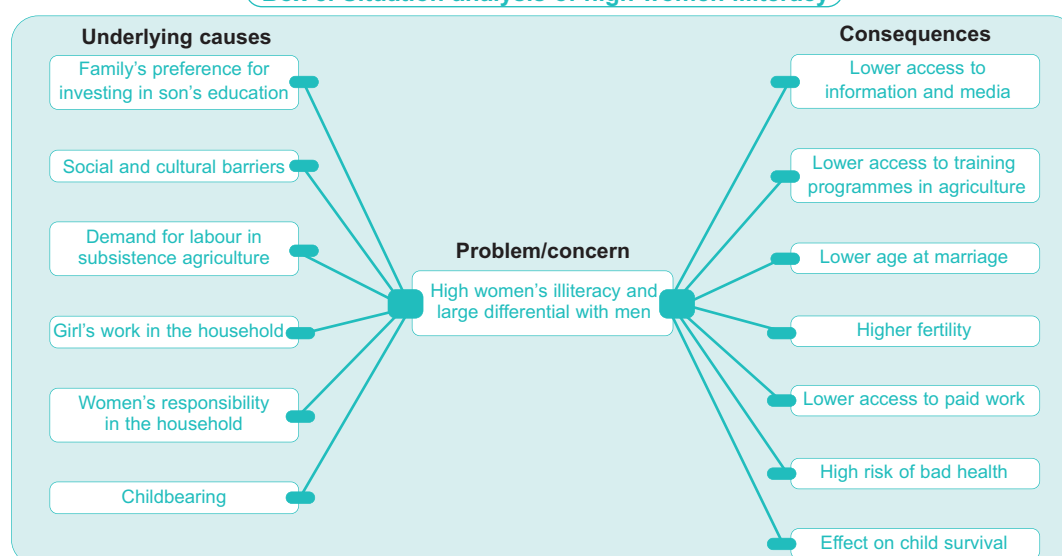
- (a) Data are collected and tabulated, but not published;
- (b) Data are collected but not tabulated;
- (c) Data are collected but not entered into the computer;
- (d) Data are not collected at all.

The first three causes for data gaps can be resolved with some technical support. However, more effort is required in cases where data are not collected at all, in addition to financial and technical support.

The following causes are highlighted for cases where data are available but cannot be considered properly as evidence for gender analysis:

- (a) Existing data are under-used;
- (b) Existing sources do not consider gender properly;
- (c) Existing data are misused.

#### Box 8. Situation analysis of high women illiteracy



Source: Statistics Sweden, *Engendering Statistics: A Handbook for Change*, 1996, pg 39.



**TABLE 4. PROPOSED MEASUREMENT OF INDICATORS FOR UNDERLYING CAUSES OF HIGH WOMEN ILLITERACY**

Underlying causes	Proposed indicators for measurement
Family's preference for investing in son's education; Social and cultural barriers	Primary school enrolment ratios
Demand for labour in subsistence agriculture; Girl's work in the household	Dropout rates by reason; Rates of absenteeism by level and grade; Time children spend working in the household and in subsistence agriculture/time they spend in education
Women's responsibility in the household; Childbearing	Time spent in housework by type of activity; Time spent in unpaid work in household for subsistence; Total fertility rate
High women's illiteracy and large differential with men	Illiteracy rates by age group in urban/rural areas
Lower access to information and media	Time spent reading newspapers/listening to the radio/watching TV; Lower access to training programmes in various areas (agriculture); Enrolment in agricultural training programmes
Lower age at marriage	Average age at first marriage in urban/rural areas; by level of education
Higher fertility	Total fertility rate in urban/rural areas, by level of education; Average age at first birth in urban/rural areas, by level of education
Lower access to paid work	Employed population by status in employment and level of education, by sex; Employed population by occupational group and level of education, by sex
Effect on child survival	Infant mortality rate by level of education; Child mortality rate by level of education;

Source: Statistics Sweden, *Engendering Statistics: A Handbook for Change*, 1996, pg 52.

In addition, some countries may not have the required sources for data collection to be able, for example, to conduct specialized surveys on the following:

- (a) Gender attitudes;
- (b) Time use;
- (c) Reproductive health;
- (d) Violence against women.

## E. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR DATA PRODUCTION IN THE ARAB REGION

The regular implementation of required surveys and censuses is needed to improve data availability in the Arab region. It is also imperative to invest in developing and strengthening administrative registers so that they are able to produce, periodically, data on policy-relevant development indicators. Countries must address the development of the least tracked indicators, including poverty, health and labour market indicators.

Efforts must also be exerted to produce more disaggregated data where applicable. Some sub-populations can be disaggregated by social determinants other than sex, for example, by age, educational attainment, geographic area, ethnic group and urban/rural areas. Disaggregating data serves to highlight patterns within a country and facilitates comparisons across sub-populations. The resulting higher degree of detail allows policymakers to tailor policies more effectively towards reaching MDGs and other national development goals. Efforts must be made to publish relevant metadata to facilitate the work of data users.

Furthermore, data mining must be undertaken to make better use of existing sources where data have been collected, but not published, tabulated, or processed. Where gender is not properly considered, efforts must be exerted to engendering existing sources for the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators. National statistical master plans or strategies must consider trying to mainstream gender in all aspects of their design and implementation.

In addition, improving data availability must be complemented by similar efforts to produce quality statistics. Quality data are needed for effective policymaking, programme planning and advocacy. Consequently efforts must be made to improve definitions, concepts and methodologies for the collection and compilation of data. Personnel involved in the statistical process at all levels and stages must be trained in gender issues and how to incorporate gender concerns in work processes. In this regard, the engendering of national statistical systems also requires including women in the enumeration stage of statistical work.

Developing a centralized database inclusive of data and metadata will ensure better accessibility, monitoring and reporting. In addition, publishing the most recent year available is recommended, and for comparison purposes, a longer time series is also needed.





## Chapter VII

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

In order to realize the ideals of the Millennium Declaration and acknowledge the fact that women and men are influenced differently by development and changes in society, gender issues and concerns must be mainstreamed within the development agenda. The existence of a gender and development perspective has led to the need for gender measurements and the production of gender statistics, including sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive quantitative and qualitative indicators for evidence-based policymaking.

Linking MDGs to the implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action is crucial for capitalizing on the synergies generated from both processes. The identification of gender issues and an in-depth gender analysis of the processes related to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action is a means of informing MDG work and related interventions in terms of targeting efforts and resources. This can be achieved by incorporating a gender analysis and perspective in MDG reports, as well as developing common frameworks or parameters to serve as guidelines for gender-sensitive MDG monitoring and reporting. There has been only limited progress, however, in producing the statistics needed to monitor the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the goals of other international conferences and summits, including MDGs.<sup>40</sup>

It is worth noting that there are differences in the availability of sex-disaggregated data across countries.

There are several reasons for this, including inadequate statistical capacity, a lack of gender mainstreaming and inadequate concepts and methods. Improving gender statistics calls on the one hand, for strengthening national statistical systems, and on the other, for improving methodological work in the collection and compilation of statistics through concentrated efforts in capacity-building. This requires securing a sustained commitment at the highest levels of Government and raising the awareness of both data producers and policymakers.

Systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective within national statistical systems and in the production of statistics, including the development of concepts and methods, and in collecting and presenting statistics will help to maximize the use of official statistics on gender. This will promote the use of available, and possible complementary and diverse sources of data, and improve data availability so that it will be possible to provide comprehensive statistics that reflect the situation and concerns of women and men equally.

The proposed "G IS IN" framework for Arab countries is a means of linking MDGs and the Arab Beijing Priority Areas of Concern with corresponding gender-sensitive indicators. It is an initial step for Arab countries towards realizing the ideals of the Millennium Declaration and implementing CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.

## Millennium Development Goals , targets and indicators

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	
Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day <sup>41</sup> 2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty] 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	4. Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
<b>Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education</b>	
Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 <sup>42</sup> 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds
<b>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
<b>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality</b>	
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. Under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate 15. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles
<b>Goal 5: Improve maternal health</b>	
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. Maternal mortality ratio 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	
Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years 19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate <sup>43</sup> 19a. Condom use at last high-risk sex 19b. Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS <sup>44</sup> 19c. Contraceptive prevalence rate 20. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years
Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 22. Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures <sup>45</sup> 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course DOTS (Internationally recommended TB control strategy) Ensure environmental sustainability
<b>Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	25. Proportion of land area covered by forest 26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area 27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP) 28. Carbon dioxide emissions per capita and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) 29. Proportion of population using solid fuels
Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural 31. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure
<b>Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development</b>	
Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	<p><i>Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.</i></p> <p><u>Official development assistance (ODA)</u></p> <p>33. Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income</p> <p>34. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)</p> <p>35. Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied</p> <p>36. ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes</p>
Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally	
Target 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries	
Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for	

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	37. ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes
Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	<u>Market access</u> 38. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty 39. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 40. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product 41. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity
Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	<u>Debt sustainability</u> 42. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) 43. Debt relief committed under HIPC Initiative 44. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	45. Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total <sup>46</sup>
Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population 48. Personal computers in use per 100 population Internet users per 100 population

The Millennium Development Goals and targets come from the Millennium Declaration, signed by 189 countries, including 147 heads of State and Government, in September 2000 (<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>). The goals and targets are interrelated and should be seen as a whole. They represent a partnership between the developed countries and the developing countries "to create an environment - at the national and global levels alike - which is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty".

## End notes

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Sweden, Engendering Statistics: A Tool for Change, 1996, p.43.

<sup>2</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), "Millennium development goals and statistical literacy", a paper presented at the Seventh Session of the Statistical Committee (Beirut, 7-9 November 2006) (E/ESCWA/SCU/2006/IG.1/6). Available at: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/scu/events/7-9nov06/item%206-MDGs.doc>.

<sup>3</sup> ESCWA, The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2005 (E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/3/Rev.1). Available at: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/information/publications/edit/upload/scu-05-3-rev1.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> The Arab Least Developed Countries - as adopted by The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens, include Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women". Available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Pathway to Gender Equality: CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs. Available at: [http://www.unifem.org/resources/listing\\_by\\_section.php?pageNum\\_rsProduct=1&totalRows\\_rsProduct=8&WebSectionID=6](http://www.unifem.org/resources/listing_by_section.php?pageNum_rsProduct=1&totalRows_rsProduct=8&WebSectionID=6).

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bureau of Development Policy, En Route to Equality: A Gender Review of National MDG Reports 2005. Available at: <http://www.undp.org/women/docs/en-route-to-equality.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Noeleen Heyzer, UNIFEM, "Smart Development: Gender equality key to achieving the MDGs", a speech delivered at the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> ESCWA, The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2005 (E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/3/Rev.1). Available at: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/information/publications/edit/upload/scu-05-3-rev1.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> UNIFEM, Pathway to Gender Equality: Linking CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs. Available at: [http://www.unifem.org/resources/listing\\_by\\_section.php?pageNum\\_rsProduct=1&totalRows\\_rsProduct=8&WebSectionID=6](http://www.unifem.org/resources/listing_by_section.php?pageNum_rsProduct=1&totalRows_rsProduct=8&WebSectionID=6).

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Millennium Project. Available at: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/who/who04.htm>.

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- 44 This indicator is defined as the percentage of population aged 15-24 who correctly identify the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner), who reject the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission, and who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV. However, since there are currently not a sufficient number of surveys to be able to calculate the indicator as defined above, the United Nations Children's Fund, in collaboration with Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization, produced two proxy indicators that represent two components of the actual indicator. They are the following: (a) percentage of women and men aged 15-24 who know that a person can protect herself/himself from HIV infection by "consistent use of condom"; (b) percentage of women and men aged 15-24 who know a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV.
- 45 Prevention to be measured by the percentage of children under 5 years old sleeping under insecticide-treated bed-nets; treatment to be measured by percentage of children under 5 years old who are appropriately treated.
- 46 An improved measure of the target for future years is under development by the International Labour Organization.



