Sustainable Development Goal 5

Gender equality indicators: data availability and metadata

Summary

The present paper provides a regional assessment of data availability for gender-related indicators in the Arab region for monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG5 on gender equality, in line with the Global Indicators Database. It also reviews the tier classification of indicators developed by the United Nations Statistical Division. In addition, the paper presents metadata for Tier I and II.

The document also highlights the main challenges encountered by Arab countries in collecting gender-related data, and highlights the recommendations under SDG5 on gender equality that countries should implement by 2030.

The objective of this effort is to produce a complete SDG5 Handbook. The SDG5 Handbook aims to provide a unified tool for producers to monitor information related to gender equality and empowerment of women through production of standardized comparable data to be used in programme formulation and policy making.

The Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender Statistics for the Arab Countries is invited to take note of the regional assessment and recommendations.

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<td>Annex I</td>
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Introduction

1. The present document provides an overview of the gender-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG5 on gender equality, in the global indicator framework, and a description of the tier classification of indicators developed by the United Nations Statistical Division. It also presents the results of the regional assessment of data availability in Arab countries, highlighting the challenges encountered, and sets out recommendations for countries to implement by 2030 under SDG5.

2. The paper will be complemented by country practices presented by national representatives of national statistical offices (NSOs) attending the meetings. The objective is to produce SDG5 Handbook to provide data producers with a unified tool and guidance to data collection efforts and common language in standardized way to produce quality and comparable data to improve the lives of women and men living in the Arab region.

A. GENDER INDICATORS IN SDG

3. On 1 January 2016, the world officially began implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to address urgent global challenges and ensure sustainable social and economic progress through its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development -economic, social and environmental - in a comprehensive global vision. The importance of data for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender equality and women empowerment is encapsulated Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The SDG global indicator framework, comprising 232 indicators to monitor the achievement of the 17 SDGs and their 169 associated targets, includes 65 gender related targets, 88 gender-related indicators, and gender-related means of implementation as illustrated in Figure 1.

B. SDG5 AND TIER CLASSIFICATION

5. The SDGs include also a stand-alone gender-related goal (SDG5) on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, thus reaffirming that gender equality and women’s empowerment is at the forefront of global policy concerns. They were adopted unanimously by the United Nations Statistical Commission. SDG5 includes 14 indicators: 4 qualitative and 10 quantitative.

6. To facilitate monitoring and reporting on available data series, capacity-building and research, all SDG indicators are classified by the United Nations Statistical Division into the following three tiers, based on their level of methodological development and availability of data at the global level:

   Tier I: A standardized methodology already exists, and data are already widely available;
   Tier II: A standardized methodology already exists, but data are not easily available;
   Tier III: Standardized methodologies are not available, and a new collection of tools and methodologies need to be developed.

7. The 14 indicators in SDG5 consist of 24 sub-indicators, classified by tier. All the qualitative indicators are unavailable and are therefore all classified in tier III1. In total there are 15 indicators in tiers I and II, and eight indicators are in tier III.

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1 Lead agencies are working on developing methodologies for collecting and presenting tier III indicators.
Figure 1. Gender in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

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<tr>
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C. SDG5: ASSESSMENT OF DATA AVAILABILITY

8. As shown in Table 1, on assessment of data availability (Tier I & II) in the SDG5 indictors at national and global levels, some countries such as the State of Palestine have gone missing in latest revision from the UNSD Global database.

9. In addition, five indicators have no information from the Arab region in the SDG Global database (indicated as “Not found”), however are available at the country and regional levels. Table 1 below provides information on availability of SDG5 indicators in both NSOs and the SDG Global database.

Table 1. Availability of SDG5 indicators (Tier I and II) in the Arab region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>number</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>SDG Global db</th>
<th>NSOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.a.1(a)</td>
<td>(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex;</td>
<td>Not found</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.a.1(b)</td>
<td>(b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</td>
<td>Not found</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.a.2</td>
<td>Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</td>
<td>Not found</td>
<td>Can be collected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.b.1</td>
<td>Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex and age group 15-49 years</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1</td>
<td>Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2</td>
<td>Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1</td>
<td>Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18</td>
<td>Not found</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2</td>
<td>Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.1 a,b,c</td>
<td>Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.1(a)</td>
<td>Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.1(b)</td>
<td>Proportion of seats held by women in (b) local governments</td>
<td>Not found</td>
<td>Can be collected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.2</td>
<td>Proportion of women in managerial positions</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6.1</td>
<td>Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</td>
<td>found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. SDG5 in Arab Countries

10. The following section provides information on data availability (green shaded) for the SDG5 16 indicators in the Arab region presented by country and year as per the SDG Global database.

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls subjected to physical and sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age (%)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
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5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age (%)

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<td>DHS</td>
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5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (% of total number of seats)

Available from 2000 to 2018

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5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex (%)

<table>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid care work, by sex, age and location (%)
5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic chores and care work, by sex, age and location (%)

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<td>2000- National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI) based on Overall Monitoring of Annual National Indicators Survey.</td>
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<td>2008- National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI) based on Time Use Survey.</td>
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<td>Calculated by UNSD based on available country data from the Time Budget of Women and Men in Tunisia to apply ICATUS.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic chores, by sex, age and location (%)

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<td>Calculated by UNSD based on available country data from the Time use survey in Egypt to apply ICATUS.</td>
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<td>Calculated by UNSD based on available country data from the Time use survey in Iraq as Module of Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey - HSES to apply ICATUS.</td>
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### 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 (%)

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5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18

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5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions (%)

Available from 2000 to 2016

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5.6.1 Proportion of women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care (% of women aged 15-49 years)

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E. FUTURE STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11. The Statistics Division at ESCWA will follow up with countries to confirm data availability as per UN SDG standard metadata to follow up with relevant agencies to include on the UNSD Global SDG database.

12. The Statistics Division will also work towards finalizing the Handbook on SDG5 metadata to include good practices and practical examples on method of calculation from countries in the region.
Annex I

SDG5 Metadata

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Indicator 5.a.1: (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

Institutional information

Organization(s):
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
The indicator is divided in two sub-indicators.

Sub-indicator (a) is a prevalence measure. It measures the prevalence of people in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land, disaggregated by sex.

\[
\text{No. people in agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land} \times 100, \text{ by sex} \\
\text{Total agricultural population}
\]

Sub-indicator (b) focusses on the gender parity, measuring the extent to which women are disadvantaged in ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land.

\[
\text{No. women in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land} \times 100 \\
\text{Total in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land}
\]

Concepts
Definition of all concepts and terms associated with the indicator are reported below:

Agricultural land:
In compliance with the classification proposed by the World Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), land is considered ‘agricultural land’ according to its use. Moreover, a reference period is usually required in order to characterize the use of a specific area of agricultural land and identify subcategories.

As clearly shown in the figure below, agricultural land is a subset of the total land.

Classification of land use (WCA 2020)
In particular, following the WCA 2020, **agricultural land** includes:

- land under temporary crops\(^2\)
- land under temporary meadows and pastures\(^3\)
- land temporarily fallow\(^4\)
- land under permanent crops\(^5\)
- land under permanent meadows and pastures\(^6\)

It excludes:

- land under farm buildings and farmyards
- forest and other wooded land
- area used for aquaculture (including inland and coastal waters if part of the holding)
- other area not elsewhere classified

Since the indicator 5.a.1 focuses on agricultural land, it excludes all the forms of land that are not considered ‘agricultural’, including land under farm buildings and farmyards.

**Agricultural population:**

Indicator 5.a.1 uses ‘agricultural population’ as denominator, instead of the total population, because tenure rights over agricultural land are relevant especially for individuals whose livelihood relies on agriculture. As a consequence, in the context of 5.a.1, the term ‘agricultural population’ has to be interpreted as equivalent of ‘individuals engaged in agriculture’.

Although an official definition of ‘agricultural population’ does not exist, an operational definition of this term shall be proposed for the scope of indicator 5.a.1.

Investigating involvement in agriculture is not trivial, because:

I. Agricultural work is highly irregular and strongly affected by seasonality, therefore if the survey questions adopt a short recall period, we risk excluding individuals engaged in agriculture because they did not practice agriculture at the time of the survey or simply because they were interviewed off-season.

II. Agricultural work may take a lot of individual’s time – so be the main activity – but not necessarily be the main source of income

III. Agriculture is sometimes practiced only or mainly for self-consumption, without any market orientation (so, with no or little income) and therefore not necessarily perceived an economic activity.

IV. Finally, the individual’s livelihood cannot be completely detached from the livelihood of the other household members, thus the necessity of a household-level perspective.

In view of this, in the context of the indicator 5.a.1, an individual is part of ‘adult agricultural population’ if the following conditions are met:

I. is adult

\(^2\) Defined as: “all land used for crops with a less than one-year growing cycle” (WCA 2020). Temporary crops comprise all the crops that need to be sown or planted after each harvest for new production (e.g. cereals). The full list of crops classified as ‘temporary’ is provided in the WCA 2020, page 165 ([http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4913e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4913e.pdf)).

\(^3\) Defined as land that has been cultivated for less than five years with herbaceous or forage crops for mowing or pasture.

\(^4\) When arable land is kept at rest for at least one agricultural year because of crop rotation or other reasons, such as the impossibility to plant new crops, this is defined as temporarily fallow. This category does not include the land that it is not cultivated at the time of the survey but will be sowed and planted before the end of the agricultural year.

\(^5\) Area that is cultivated with long term crops that do not need to be replanted every year, such as fruits and nuts, some types of stimulant crops, etc.

\(^6\) Land cultivated with herbaceous forage crops or is left as wild prairie or grazing land for more than five years.
II. s/he belongs to a household where at least one member is mainly engaged in an agricultural work over the past 12 months, regardless the final purpose (whether for income-generation or self-consumption) and the status in employment.

The adoption of a household perspective is particularly important from the gender perspective, because in many agricultural households, women often consider themselves as ‘not involved in agriculture’ whereas they provide substantive support to the household’s agricultural activities.

Ownership and tenure rights over agricultural land:

It is challenging to define and to operationalize ownership and tenure rights in a way that provides reliable and comparable figures across countries.

Land ownership is a legally recognised right to acquire, to use and to transfer land. In private property systems, this is a right akin to a freehold tenure. However, in systems where land is owned by the State, the term ‘land ownership’ refers to possession of the rights most akin to ownership in a private property system – for instance, long-term leases, occupancy, tenancy or use rights granted by the State, often for several decades, and that are transferrable. In this context, it is more appropriate to speak of tenure rights.

Nonetheless, as emphasized by the EDGE (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality) project7, focusing on legally recognized documents is not sufficient to analyse the complexity of rights related to land, especially in developing countries and from the gender perspective. The main factor limiting the universal applicability of legally recognized documents is the diverse penetration of such legally binding documents.

Considering the above, as well as the need to propose an indicator valid at global level, the indicator 5.a.1 relies on the three conditions (proxies): 1) Presence of legally recognised documents in the name of the individual; 2) right to sell; 3) right to bequeath.

1) Presence of legally recognised documents in the name of the individual

It refers to the existence of any document an individual can use to claim property rights before the law over an asset by virtue of the individual’s name being listed as owner or holder on the document. Given the differences between legal systems across countries it is not possible to clearly define an exhaustive list of documents that could be considered a proof of tenure security. However, depending on the national legal framework the following documents may be considered as formal titles:

- Title deed: “a written or printed instrument that effects a legal disposition”8
- Certificate of occupancy or land certificate “A land certificate is a certified copy of an entry in a land title system and provides proof of the ownership and of encumbrances on the land at that time”9
- Purchase agreement: a contract between a seller and a buyer to dispose of land
- Registered certificate of hereditary acquisition
- Certificate of customary tenure: an official state document indicating the owner or holder of the land because customary law has recognized that particular person as the rightful owner. It can be used as proof of legal right over the land. These certificates include, among others, certificates of customary ownership and customary use.

7 Source: “UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective” Draft Guidelines submitted at the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017
8 Source: “Multilingual thesaurus on land tenure”, FAO 2003
9 Source: “Multilingual thesaurus on land tenure”, FAO 2003
- Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease: “a contractual agreement between a landlord and a tenant for the tenancy of land. A lease or tenancy agreement is the contractual document used to create a leasehold interest or tenancy”\textsuperscript{10}
- Registered short term (less than 3 years) rental contract
- Certificate issued for adverse possession or prescription: is a certificate indicating that the adverse possessor acquires the land after a prescribed statutory period.

In order to overcome the lack of written documentation and to generate a globally valid indicator it becomes crucial to take into account also the alienation rights over land, which can be present even in contexts where tenure rights are not documented.

Alienation is defined as the ability to transfer a given asset during lifetime or after death. The right to sell and to bequeath are considered as objective facts that carry legal force as opposed to a simple self-reported declaration of tenure rights over land. In particular:

2) Right to sell
It refers to the ability of an individual to permanently transfer the asset in question in return for cash or in-kind benefits.

3) Right to bequeath
It refers to the ability of an individual to pass on the asset in question to another person(s) after his or her death, by written will, oral will (if recognized by the country) or when the deceased left no will, through intestate succession.

The decision to rely on the three proxies above (availability of a legal document, right to sell, right to bequeath) is justified by the results of the seven field tests conducted under the framework on the EDGE project. In particular, the tests demonstrated:

The lack of reliability of reported ownership/possession. In fact reported ownership/possession was often neither supported by any kind of documentation nor by the possession of any alienation right.

The need to consider as ‘owners’ or ‘holders of tenure rights’ only the individuals who are linked to the agricultural land by an objective right over it, including both formal legal possession and alienation rights.

The need to combine different proxies, as no single proxy is universally valid.

**Rationale and interpretation**

Indicator 5.a.1 aims to monitor the gender balance on ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land. Sub-indicator (a) and sub-indicator (b) are based on the same data and they simply monitor ownership / tenure rights from two different angles. Indeed, while sub-indicator (a) uses the total male/female agricultural population as reference population, and it tell us how many male/female own land, sub-indicator (b) focusses on the agricultural population with land ownership/tenure rights, and it tell us how many of them are women.

Therefore, it is sufficient to have:

A. The number of adult individuals in agriculture with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land (by sex), and
B. The total adult agricultural population

\textsuperscript{10} Source: “Multilingual thesaurus on land tenure”, FAO 2003
to compute both the sub indicators. The example below show that the same data can be used to construct both part (a) and part (b) of the indicator.

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<td>200</td>
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It is crucial that the incidence is disaggregated by sex and that the two measures are compared, in order to appreciate the gap between men and women. In this example, overall, 37 percent of the agricultural population has ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land. But when the indicator is disaggregated by sex, we clearly appreciate the difference between men and women.

the focus is on the total number of people (in ag population) with tenure rights over agricultural land. The purpose of the sub-indicator (b) is to show how many of them are women.

Comments and limitations

If a country adopts the strategy of interviewing one randomly selected person per household, this may result in a small sample size. Countries are recommended to take into consideration the impact on the expected sample size on the precision of the estimates and the tabulation plan. If necessary, countries may consider to interview more than one individual per household, or all individuals. Alternatively, countries may consider to collect information on all household member through a proxy respondent (option 1 above).

It is critical that the list of legally binging documents proposed above is customized in order to consider only documents that are enforceable before the law and that guarantee individual’s tenure rights.

Methodology

Computation Method:

How the indicator is calculated:
The indicator 5.a.1 considers as owners or holders of tenure rights all the individuals in the reference population (agricultural population) who:
- Are listed as ‘owners’ or ‘holders’ on a certificate that testifies security of tenure over agricultural land
  OR
- Have the right to sell agricultural land
  OR
- Have the right to bequeath agricultural land
The presence of one of the three proxies is sufficient to define a person as ‘owner’ or ‘holder’ of tenure rights over agricultural land. The advantage of this approach is its applicability to different countries. Indeed, based on the analysis of the seven EDGE pilot countries, these proxies provide the most robust measure of ownership/tenure rights that is comparable across countries with diverse prevalence of documentation. In fact, individuals may still have the right to sell or bequeath an asset in the absence of legally recognized document, therefore the indicator combines documented ownership/tenure rights with the right to sell or bequeath to render it comparable across countries.

Operationalization of indicator 5.a.1 expressed through mathematical formulas are the following:

Sub-indicator (a)

\[
\frac{\text{Total agricultural population with: Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it}}{\text{Total agricultural population}} \times 100, \text{ by sex}
\]

Sub-indicator (b)

\[
\frac{\text{Number of women in agriculture with: Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it}}{\text{Number of people in agriculture with: Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it}} \times 100
\]

Disaggregation:

We can distinguish between levels of disaggregation which are ‘mandatory’ for the global monitoring and levels of disaggregation which are recommended especially for the country level analysis, as they provide an in-sight for policy making.

‘mandatory’ levels of disaggregation

- [for sub-indicator (a)] sex of the individuals

‘recommended’ levels of disaggregation

(not exhaustive list)

[for both sub-indicators]

- Income level
- age group
- ethnic group
- geographic location (urban/rural)
- tenure type
- type of legally recognized document

Treatment of missing values:

- At country level
Missing values will be imputed only if a sufficient number of data points from the same region. In such a case, missing values will be imputed through the regional mean value.

- At regional and global levels
  Regional and global aggregates will be computed only when a sufficient number of data points is available at regional or global level. Metadata will complement the regional and global level estimates to avoid that users interpret these aggregates as pertaining to all countries in the region.

Sources of discrepancies:
There is currently no known source of difference.

Regional aggregates:
Weighted regional aggregates will be generated by taking into consideration the number of individuals engaged in agriculture and the number of individuals classified as owners or holders of agricultural land.
Weighted regional aggregates will be generated only if a sufficient number of countries in the region report on the indicator.

Data Sources

Description

(iii) Recommended data sources:
In the specific case of indicator 5a1, household surveys are the most recommended data source. Examples of household surveys that could be used to generate the indicator 5a1 are:
- Household budget surveys (HBS)
- Living standard measurement surveys (LSMS)
- Living Conditions Surveys
- Labour Force Surveys (LFS)
- Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
- Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)
- Multipurpose Household Surveys

Why are National Household Surveys a recommended data source for indicator 5a1?
1. Generally speaking, surveys are more cost-effective than censuses because they are carried out on a representative sample which is then used to estimate the parameters at the population level.
2. National Household surveys are the most common data source available in both developed and developing countries
3. National Household surveys tend to be very broad in scope and they are normally used to generate social, demographic and economic statistics. Therefore they: i) can accommodate questions needed for the computation of indicator 5a1; ii) allow exploring associations between the individual status on indicator 5a1 and other individual or household characteristics, such as education, health, income level, etc; iii) can include additional data for a more detailed analysis of the indicator (eg., land size).

(iv) Alternative sources include Population and Housing Censuses, Agricultural Surveys.

In principle, Population and Housing Censuses (PHC) can be considered an alternative data source for indicator 5a1 because, like household surveys, they refer to the whole population living in a given area. Nonetheless, Population and Housing Censuses present some disadvantages:
1. Censuses are usually conducted every 10 years; therefore they do not allow countries to closely monitor the progress on indicator 5.a.1.
2. Population and Housing Censuses are large scale and costly operations focussing on the structure of the population.

3. Population and Housing Censuses heavily rely on proxy respondents, an approach which is in contrast with the respondents’ selection procedure recommended for indicator 5.a.1.

If a country does not succeed in appending a module on 5.a.1 to a National Household Survey, it may consider using Agricultural Surveys as an alternative vehicle because they can accommodate questions on agricultural land tenure rights.

However, Agricultural Surveys present the following disadvantage: they may not adequately cover the households where members are engaged in agriculture as wage labourers. Therefore, they miss a part of the reference population. If, despite this constraint, a country chooses to append a module on 5.a.1 to an Agricultural Survey, then it is crucial to report this choice in the metadata. In such a case, global comparability is compromised, but the country can still be able to monitor its own progress on this indicator over time, provided that the same data source is retained.

**Who should respond? How many people?**

For indicator 5a1, it is crucial to: i) choose the number of individuals on which information is to be collected, and ii) determine who should report this information. Two options are suggested:

- **Option 1**: Each adult member of the household is interviewed on his/her ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land (self-respondent approach applied to all members)
- **Option 2**: One randomly selected adult household member is interviewed on his/her ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land (self-respondent approach applied to one member)

In practice, due to budget constraints and time limitations, interviewing only one adult member per household will be the most viable option. However, if a country wants to study intra-household dynamics or to increase the precision of the 5a1 estimates, it may decide to collect information about each household member, using self-reported data.

FAO does not recommend the option of using proxy respondents, whereby the most knowledgeable household member is usually interviewed to collect information on all the household members. However, if the survey used as a vehicle for the collection of 5.a.1 data cannot adopt the self-respondent approach, then proxy respondents should be used to collect information on all household members.

**(v) Minimum Set of Data**

A minimum set of data is needed to calculate the indicator. These are:

- Whether or not at least one household member has been mainly engaged in agriculture in the past 12 months
- Sex of the selected individual
- Age of the selected individual
- Whether or not the selected individual holds any agricultural land
- Whether or not any of the land held by the respondent has a legally recognized document (or certificate) that allows protecting his/her ownership / tenure rights over the land
- Whether or not the selected individual is listed as an owner or holder on any of the legally recognized documents, either alone of jointly with someone else
- Whether or not the selected individual has the right to sell any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else
- Whether or not the selected individual has the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else

Findings from the pilot studies reveal that data from proxy respondents yield different estimates than self-reported data, with variations by asset, by type of ownership and by the sex of the owner. In particular, it was found that proxy-reported data decrease both women’s and men’s reported ownership of agricultural land. Such underestimation is greater for men (-15 percentage points) than for women (-10 percentage points), and is less pronounced when we consider documented ownership (-7 percentage points for men and -2 percentage points for women).
Questions to Capture the Agricultural Population

As mentioned above, an individual is part of ‘adult agricultural population’ if the following conditions are met:

1. is adult
2. belong to a household where at least one member is mainly engaged in an agricultural occupation over the past 12 months, regardless the final purpose (whether for income-generation or self-consumption) and the status in employment.

The recommendations below propose ways for capturing this concept in a survey questionnaire. They are particularly relevant in case the survey does not have a ‘labor module’ or if the ‘labor module’ included in the survey questionnaire does not inform on the individuals’ involvement in growing crops and/or raising livestock over the past 12 months.

We distinguish 2 main scenarios:

Scenario A: The survey can include individual level questions of engagement in agriculture

Scenario B: The survey cannot append individual level questions of engagement in agriculture in the household roster. Therefore questions shall be asked at the household level.

Scenario A

If the survey can include individual level questions of engagement in agriculture, such questions can be easily appended to a household roster (or to a labor module), and they can be asked to the most knowledgeable individual in household. They aim to capture individual involvement in agriculture over the past 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual level questions</th>
<th>function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Q1.** In the last 12 months, that is from [MONTH] to [MONTH], did [NAME] do or help with:  
 a. farming land to produce food  
 or  
 b. raising or tending livestock  
 □ 1 – yes  
 □ 2 – no (end of questions) | Capture whether the respondent grew crops or raised livestock over the past 12 months  
 Screening question. It is not essential and could be cancelled if the country wants to limit the number of questions. |
| **Q2.** Which of the following best describes what [NAME] was mainly doing in the past 12 months, that is from [MONTH] to [MONTH]?

*READ AND TICK THE TWO MAIN ACTIVITIES*  
 □ 1 – Farming or raising livestock  
 □ 2 – Forestry or fishing  
 □ 3 – Working in a sector other than agriculture or fishing  
 (questions end)  
 □ 4 – Studying  
 (questions end)  
 □ 5 – Looking for work  
 (questions end)  
 □ 6 – Taking care of household or family  
 (questions end)  
 □ 7 – With long-term illness or disability  
 (questions end)  
 □ 8 – Retired or pensioner  
 (questions end) | Understand whether growing crops and / or raising livestock were the main activities in terms of time. |
Q3. In farming and raising livestock was [NAME]...

**READ AND TICK ALL THAT APPLIES**

- [ ] 1. working as own-account worker (without regular employees)
- [ ] 2. working as an employer (with regular employees)
- [ ] 3. helping in the household / family business
- [ ] 4. helping a family member who works for someone else for a pay
- [ ] 5. working for someone else for pay (ie., employee, on paid apprentice / internship)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>______</th>
<th>______</th>
<th>______</th>
<th>______</th>
<th>______</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 – Other (specify): _______________ (questions end)</td>
<td>Status in employment</td>
<td>Supplementary question. It is not essential and could be cancelled if the country wants to ‘limit’ the number of questions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scenario B**

Questions below are asked at the household level, to the most knowledgeable individual in the household. They aim to capture household involvement in agriculture over the past 12 months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household level questions</th>
<th>function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q1.</strong> Over the past 12 months, which is from [MONTH] up to [MONTH], did anybody in the household do or help with any of the following activities? a. farming land to produce food or b. raising or tending livestock</td>
<td>Capture whether somebody in the household grew crops over the past 12 months, regardless the final purpose of the activities Screenning question. It is not essential and could be cancelled if the country wants to limit the number of questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] 1 – yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] 2 – no (end of questions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Q2.** In the past 12 months, that is from [MONTH] up to [MONTH], did any member of this household spend most of his/her time farming, raising or raising/tending livestock? | Understand whether growing crops and/or raising livestock were the main activities in terms of time. |
| [ ] 1 – yes, farming or raising livestock were the main activity for at least one member | |
| [ ] 2 – yes, farming or raising livestock were the second main activity for at least one member | |
| [ ] 3 – no (questions end) | |

**Q3.** In these activities were these people...

**READ AND TICK ALL THAT APPLIES**

- [ ] 1. working as own-account worker (without regular employees)
- [ ] 2. working as an employer (with regular employees)
- [ ] 3. helping in the household / family business
- [ ] 4. helping a family member who works for someone else for a pay
- [ ] 5. working for someone else for pay (ie., employee, on paid apprentice / internship)

Status in employment

Supplementary question. It is not essential and could be cancelled if the country wants to ‘limit’ the number of questions.
Based on the minimum set of data outlined above, we present below the set of questions proposed for the calculation of the 5a1 indicator. In particular, we present two scenarios:

- A minimum set of questions collected at the individual-level
- A module where data are collected at the parcel level

### Minimum set of questions collected at the individual-level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(vi) List of standard questions</th>
<th>(vii) Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q1.</strong> Do you hold (alternatively ‘do you have, use or occupy’) any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else?</td>
<td><strong>i) Reported possession (i.e., self-perception of respondent’s possession status)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(x) 1 - Yes</td>
<td>This question refers to whether the respondent, not the respondent’s household, holds any agricultural land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(xi) 2 - No</td>
<td><strong>ii) It measures reported possession, which captures the respondent’s self-perception of his/her possession status, irrespective of whether the respondent has a formal documentation.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(xii)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Q2. Is there a formal document for any of the agricultural land you hold (alternatively ‘you possess, use, occupy’) issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency? (allow for more than one type of document to be listed) | |
| (i) | |
| 1 - Title deed | This question identifies whether there is a legally recognized document for any of the agricultural land the respondent reports having, and the type of documentation. Documented ownership / tenure rights refers to the existence of any document an individual can use to claim ownership or tenure rights in law over the land. |
| 2 - Certificate of customary tenure | The list of options is indicative and countries are encouraged to adopt country-specific list. |
| 3 - Certificate of occupancy | **ii) However, it is of utmost importance that the list includes only country relevant documents that are enforceable before the law.** |
| 4 – Registered will or registered certificate of hereditary acquisition | |
| 5 – Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease | |
| 6 – Registered rental contract | |
| 7 - Other (specify: ______________) | |
| 9 - No document (skip to Q4) | |
| 98 - Don’t known (skip to Q4) | |
| 99 – refuses to respond (skip to Q4) | |

| Q3. Is your name is listed as an owner or use right holder on any of the legally recognized documents? | |
| (xxi) | |
| 1 - Yes | **ii) As above** |
| 2 - No | |
| 98 - Don’t know | *v) Because individual names can be listed as witnesses on a document, it is important to ask if the respondent is listed “as an owner” or “holder” on the document. It is recommend that the measure of documented ownership / tenure rights not be conditional on the respondent producing the document for the enumerator to confirm.*** |
| 99 - Refuses to respond | |

**Q4. Do you have the right to sell any of the parcel hold (alternatively ‘parcel possessed, used or occupied’), alone or jointly with someone else?**

| (x) Alienation rights | |
| (xi) This question obtains information on whether the respondent believes that he/she has the right to sell any of the agricultural land s/he reports possessing. When a respondent has the right to sell the land, it |
A module where data are collected at the parcel level
Countries may opt to collect information at the parcel level for two reasons:

1. First, the country implements a nationally-representative survey that already collects a roster of parcels (e.g. the LSMS-ISA and many agricultural surveys) to which the questions on ownership or tenure rights can be appended.

2. Second, the country wants to go beyond the data strictly needed for the computation of the indicator and collect a broader set of information in order to carry out a comprehensive analysis of women’s and men’s ownership, rights and control of agricultural land. Collecting such information, including on the characteristics of agricultural land, should be done at the parcel level.12

When a module on the ownership / tenure rights of agricultural land is appended to an existing survey, the total number and sequence of questions in the module will depend on the general objectives and structure of the survey. Yet, for calculation of SDG Indicator 5.a.1, the following rules should be followed:

i) If the main survey questionnaire already captures a roster of parcels belonging to the household, the respondent randomly selected to complete the module on agricultural land ownership / tenure rights should be asked if she/he hold any agricultural land. If yes, the respondent should report which of the roster of parcels generated at the household level he/she possesses. In addition, the respondent should be given the opportunity to report any additional parcels not included in the household parcel roster. The questions in the module will only be asked for the agricultural parcels held by the respondent (see example below).

**Parcel-level module on the ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land based on household parcel roster**

| Q1. Do you hold (alternatively ‘do you have, use or occupy’) any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 – Yes | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 |
| 2 – No (end of module) | |

---

12 A full list of data items, and their rationale, can be found in the draft “UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective” submitted to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017 and in the technical note submitted to the IAEG-SDG for fast-tracking the 5.a.1 indicator to the Tier II category.
Please tell me which agricultural parcels you hold (alternatively ‘you have, use or occupy’)

**ENUMERATOR: LIST PARCEL ID CODES FROM THE HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE THAT ARE HELD INDIVIDUALLY OR JOINTLY BY RESPONDENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcel ID</th>
<th>Please tell me which agricultural parcels you hold (alternatively ‘you have, use or occupy’)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is there a formal document or certificate for this [PARCEL] issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency? (tick all that applies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is your name is listed as owner or use right holder on the formal document for this [PARCEL]?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do you have the right to sell this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do you have the right to bequeath this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 - Title deed
2 - Certificate of customary tenure
3 - Certificate of occupancy
4 - Registered will or registered certificate of hereditary acquisition
5 - Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease
6 - Registered rental contract
7 - Other (specify: ________________)
9 - No document (skip to Q4)
98 - Don’t know (skip to Q4)
99 - Refuses to respond

| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| ... | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | |

ii) If all household members are interviewed, a roster of parcel should be created at the household level and the same procedure described in rule i) should be followed.

iii) If the main survey questionnaire does not capture a roster of parcels at the household level and one randomly-selected adult household member will be administered the module on agricultural land ownership /tenure rights, a respondent roster of parcels can be created in the individual questionnaire by asking the respondent to list all of the parcels that s/he holds (see example below).
Parcel-level module on the ownership / tenure rights of agricultural land based on respondent parcel roster

Q1. Do you hold (alternatively ‘you have, use or occupy’) any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q5</th>
<th>Q6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|   | Parcel ID | List all of the agricultural parcels you hold (alternatively ‘you have, use or occupy’), either alone or jointly with someone else | Is there a formal document or certificate for this [PARCEL] issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency? (tick all that applies) | Is your name is listed as owner or use right holder on the formal document for this [PARCEL]?
1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else)
2 - No
98 - Don’t know
99 - Refuses to respond |
|   | 1 - Title deed
2 - Certificate of customary tenure
3 - Certificate of occupancy
4 – Registered will or registered certificate of hereditary acquisition
5 – Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease
6 – Registered rental contract
7 - Other (specify: ______________) |
|   | 9 - No document (skip to Q4)
98 - Don’t known (skip to Q4)
99 – refuses to respond (skip to Q4) |
|   | Do you have the right to sell this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else?
1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else)
2 – No
98 - Don’t know
99 - Refuses to respond |
|   | Do you have the right to bequeath this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else?
1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else)
2 – No
98 - Don’t know
99 - Refuses to respond |

1

2

...

N
Data Availability

Description:
As a new indicator, 5.a.1 is not yet produced by any country as of 2017.

Breakdown of the number of countries covered by region is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Africa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Asia</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Asia</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Europe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Europe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia and New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanesia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micronesia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polynesia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calendar

Data collection:
Through its programme of capacity development activities, FAO will encourage countries to include the monitoring of SDG indicator 5.a.1 in the next national household surveys and to identify the most appropriate data vehicle. It is not a standalone data collection exercise administered by FAO at a regular time interval. Thus it is not possible to predict the number of countries that will generate SDG 5.a.1 in the next year.
Data providers

National Statistical Offices. If agricultural surveys are used, the responsible organization will be the Ministry of Agriculture or, more generally, the organization responsible for agricultural surveys at country level.

Data compilers

FAO

References

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Target 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
Indicator 5.a.2: Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

Institutional information

Organization(s):

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:

Indicator 5.a.2 collects all existing national policy objectives, draft provisions, legal provisions and implementing legislation that reflect good practices in guaranteeing women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

“Land ownership” is defined as a legally recognised right to acquire, to use and to transfer landed property.

“Control over land” is defined as the ability to make decisions over landed property.

The proxies used to monitor Indicator 5.a.2 are widely recognised as good practices in strengthening women’s rights to land ownership and/or control.

The indicator captures the following four proxies:

a) Does the legal framework provide for the establishment of a fund to increase women’s access to land and/or access to productive resources and services?

b) Is joint titling of private property compulsory or encouraged through economic incentives for married or unmarried couples, in accordance with national law?

c) In recognised customary tenure systems, does the law facilitate the recording of all interests in land (including use rights) of men and women?

The policy and legal instruments covered include draft policy documents, formally adopted policy documents, draft legislation, primary law, secondary legislation (see terminology section for detailed explanation).
Nota bene: The proxies are intended to capture a range of different regional contexts to reflect the universal scope of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result, Proxy c) may not be applicable to all countries.

**Rationale:**

Information under Indicator 5.a.2 is currently being collected through FAO’s Legal Assessment Tool (LAT) for gender-equitable land tenure, which maps out the existence (in policy and legal frameworks) of four good practices for guaranteeing women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

Indicator 5.a.2 collects policy objectives, draft provisions, existing legal provisions and implementing legislation reflecting good practices that guarantee women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control. Information is then computed by stage of incorporation into the policy and legal framework, using a scale from 0 to 4. Each number refers to the stage of incorporation of the indicator into the policy and legal framework, as laid out below:

- **Stage 0:** Absence of all proxies in the legal framework
- **Stage 1:** A draft policy document provides for the adoption of one or more proxy
- **Stage 1.5:** A formally adopted policy document provides for the adoption of one or more proxy
- **Stage 2:** A bill contains one or more proxy
- **Stage 3:** Primary law contains one or more proxy
- **Stage 4:** Secondary legislation contains one or more proxy

These stages will be determined based on the questionnaire results communicated by countries to FAO, for the purpose of reporting under Indicator 5.a.2.

**Concepts:**

“Land ownership” is defined as a legally recognised right to acquire, to use and to transfer landed property.

“Control over land” is defined as the ability to make decisions over landed property.

Proxy a)

Title: Does the legal framework provide for the establishment of a fund to increase women’s access to land and/or access to productive resources and services?

Rationale: In line with Target 5.a., the legal framework should facilitate women’s access to productive resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land. Government funds should be earmarked for that purpose and channelled through a specific body (fund).

Monitoring: This proxy aims to identify any policy objectives, draft provisions, existing legal provisions and implementing legislation that commit the government to the creation and maintenance of a fund for women’s access to land and/or access to productive resources and services.
Proxy b)

Title: Is joint titling of private property compulsory or encouraged through economic incentives for married or unmarried couples, in accordance with national law?

Rationale: Legal provisions on joint ownership of private property are not always a guarantee of women’s equal rights to land ownership or control. Without the inclusion of their names on the land title, deed or certificate, women’s property rights remain insecure, particularly if they are divorced, separated or widowed.

Monitoring: This proxy aims to identify any policy objectives, draft provisions, existing legal provisions and implementing legislation that:

• Make joint titling of private property compulsory for married or unmarried couples

• Make joint titling the default option in registration

• Encourage joint titling of private property for married or unmarried couples through economic incentives such as (inter alia):
  - Waiver of registration fees for joint registration
  - Reduced registration fees for joint registration
  - Exemption from paying registration taxes
  - Credit incentives

Proxy c)

Title: In recognised customary tenure systems, does the law facilitate the recording of all interests in land (including use rights) of men and women?

Rationale: This proxy applies to countries that operate a dual system of land tenure (ie. a statutory system of land tenure and a formally recognised customary system of land tenure). The terms “all interests in land” are understood as all the rights in or over land. They may include the right to own, use, develop and control the lands that communities possess by way of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have acquired. Where individual rights within a community are registered, provisions should be in place for the rights of both men and women to be registered.

Monitoring: This proxy aims to identify any policy objectives, draft provisions, existing legal provisions and implementing legislation that organise the recording of customary rights to land of men and women.

Nota bene: Policy objectives, draft provisions, existing legal provisions and implementing legislation should facilitate the recording of the rights. Any time limits on applications, or caps on the surface area, would have the effect of restricting the ability to register these rights and should therefore be avoided.
Methodology

Computation Method:

Information under Indicator 5.a.2 is currently being collected through FAO’s Legal Assessment Tool (LAT) for gender-equitable land tenure, which maps out the existence (in policy and legal frameworks) of four good practices for guaranteeing women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

Indicator 5.a.2 collects policy objectives, draft provisions, existing legal provisions and implementing legislation reflecting good practices that guarantee women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control. Information is then computed by stage of incorporation into the policy and legal framework, using a scale from 0 to 4. Each number refers to the stage of incorporation of the indicator into the policy and legal framework, as laid out below:

Stage 0: Absence of all proxies in the legal framework
Stage 1: A draft policy document provides for the adoption of one or more proxy
Stage 1.5: A formally adopted policy document provides for the adoption of one or more proxy
Stage 2: A bill contains one or more proxy
Stage 3: Primary law contains one or more proxy
Stage 4: Secondary legislation contains one or more proxy

These stages will be determined based on the questionnaire results communicated by countries to FAO, for the purpose of reporting under Indicator 5.a.2.

Disaggregation:

Disaggregation by stage: Stage 0: Absence of all proxies in the legal framework
Stage 1: A draft policy document provides for the adoption of one or more proxy
Stage 1.5: A formally adopted policy document provides for the adoption of one or more proxy
Stage 2: A bill contains one or more proxy
Stage 3: Primary law contains one or more proxy
Stage 4: Secondary legislation contains one or more proxy

These stages will be determined based on the questionnaire results communicated by countries to FAO, for the purpose of reporting under Indicator 5.a.2.

Data Sources

Description:
Information under Indicator 5.a.2 is currently being collected through FAO’s Legal Assessment Tool (LAT) for gender-equitable land tenure, which maps out the existence (in policy and legal frameworks) of four good practices for guaranteeing women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

**Collection process:**

As the custodian agency for this indicator, FAO recommends that the following steps be taken by countries for the purpose of standardised reporting under Target 5.a.

**Step 1: Identification of a Responsible Entity**

**Functions**

Oversee the collection of information, check and validate the results, and communicate them to FAO.

**Possible Entities**

As the Ministry responsible for upholding the rule of law, defending and promoting human rights – including gender equality – the Ministry of Justice would be in a privileged position to carry out the functions under Indicator 5.a.2. Other possible entities include Human Rights Commissions, Gender Equality Commissions or any other relevant body.

**Step 2: Identification of a national legal expert**

Considering the legal nature of Indicator 5.a.2, the Responsible Entity should consider appointing a national legal expert to perform the legal review.

**Recommended expert profile:**

The national legal expert should be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience in issues related to property rights in his/her country, be able to locate relevant policy and legal material pertaining to land and property rights and be fluent in English.

**Step 3: Expert analysis of the policy and legal framework**

**Nature of the review**

For the purpose of reporting under Indicator 5.a.2, FAO recommends that the national legal expert fills out the three forms attached (in Annex).

**Form 1 “Checklist of policy and legal instruments”**

This form provides a checklist of the relevant policy and legal instruments to be screened for proxies.

**Form 2 “List of policy and legal instruments for reporting under Indicator 5.a.2”**

This form should be used to facilitate reporting under Indicator 5.a.2.
Form 3 “Questionnaire on Indicator 5.a.2”
This form summarises the results of the screening.

Step 4: Validation of the results by the Responsible Entity

The results of the screening should be checked and validated by the Responsible Entity, prior to communication to FAO.

Step 5: Communication of the results to FAO
After checking and validating the results, the Responsible Entity communicates Forms 1, 2 and 3 to the custodian agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is highly recommended that at this stage the Responsible Entity also informs the national statistical authority that will have the overall responsibility in coordinating SDG reporting at national level.

Step 6: Validation of final indicator results with countries
FAO will compute the indicator based on the information supplied by countries. It will communicate the result back to the national legal expert and seek final confirmation before reporting the indicator at global level.

**Data Availability**

27 countries

**Calendar**

**Data collection:**

January 2017

**Data release:**

December 2017

**Data providers**

FAO

**Data compilers**

FAO
References

URL:


References:


Related indicators

5.a.1:
(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
Indicator 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

**Institutional information**

**Organization(s):**

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**Concepts and definitions**

**Definition:**

The proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex is defined as the ‘proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex’.

**Rationale:**

Mobile phone networks have spread rapidly over the last decade and the number of mobile-cellular subscriptions is quasi equal to the number of the people living on earth. However, not every person uses, or owns a mobile-cellular telephone. Mobile phone ownership, in particular, is important to track gender equality since the mobile phone is a personal device that, if owned and not just shared, provides women with a degree of independence and autonomy, including for professional purposes. A number of studies have highlighted the link between mobile phone ownership and empowerment, and productivity growth.

Existing data on the proportion of women owning a mobile phone suggest that less women than men own a mobile phone. This indicator highlights the importance of mobile phone ownership to track and to improve gender equality, and monitoring will help design targeted policies to overcome the gender divide. The collection of this indicator was proposed by the Task Group on Gender of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development.

**Concepts:**

An individual owns a mobile cellular phone if he/she has a mobile cellular phone device with at least one active SIM card for personal use. Mobile cellular phones supplied by employers that can be used for personal reasons (to make personal calls, access the Internet, etc.) are included. Individuals who have only active SIM card(s) and not a mobile phone device are excluded. Individuals who have a mobile phone for personal use that is not registered under his/her name are also included. An active SIM card is a SIM card that has been used in the last three months.
A mobile (cellular) telephone refers to a portable telephone subscribing to a public mobile telephone service using cellular technology, which provides access to the PSTN. This includes analogue and digital cellular systems and technologies such as IMT-2000 (3G) and IMT-Advanced. Users of both postpaid subscriptions and prepaid accounts are included.

Comments and limitations:

While the data on the ‘proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone’ currently only exist for very few countries, ITU is encouraging all countries to collect data on this indicator through national household surveys and the indicator is expected to be added to the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development’s Core List of Indicators. The number of countries with official data for this indicator is expected to increase in the near future.

Methodology

Computation Method:

Countries can collect data on this indicator through national household surveys. This indicator is calculated by dividing the total number of in-scope individuals who own a mobile phone by the total number of in-scope individuals.

Disaggregation:

For countries that collect this indicator through a national household survey, and if data allow breakdown and disaggregation, the indicator can be broken down not only by sex but also by region (geographic and/or urban/rural), by age group, by educational level, by labour force status, and by occupation.

Treatment of missing values:

- At country level

  Missing values are not estimated.

- At regional and global levels

  Missing values are not estimated.

Regional aggregates:

ITU has not produced any global estimates but is working on a methodology to produce global estimates for this indicator. This methodology is expected to be published at the end of 2016.

Sources of discrepancies:
None. ITU uses the data provided by countries, including the in-scope population that is used to calculate the percentages.

**Data Sources**

**Description:**

This indicator is a newly developed ITU indicator that was approved by the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) 2014. The indicator’s definition and methodology were developed under the coordination of ITU, through its Expert Groups and following an extensive consultation process with countries. Data for the proportion of individuals owning a mobile phone were first collected in 2015, through an annual questionnaire that ITU sends to national statistical offices (NSO). In this questionnaire, through which ITU already collects a number of ICT indicators, ITU collects absolute values. The percentages are calculated a-posteriori. The survey methodology is verified to ensure that it meets adequate statistical standards. The data are verified to ensure consistency with previous years’ data and other relevant country-level indicators (ICT and economic).

Data are usually not adjusted, but discrepancies in the definition, age scope of individuals, reference period or the break in comparability between years are noted in a data note. For this reason, data are not always strictly comparable.

**Collection process:**

ITU collects data on this indicator through an annual questionnaire that it sends to the heads of the national statistical offices (NSO). In this questionnaire, through which ITU already collects a number of ICT indicators, ITU collects absolute values. The percentages are calculated a-posteriori. The survey methodology is verified to ensure that it meets adequate statistical standards. The data are verified to ensure consistency with previous years’ data and other relevant country-level indicators (ICT and economic).

**Data Availability**

2013 to 2015 (latest) data are available for 23 countries, including some OECD countries.

**Calendar**

**Data collection:**

Data are collected through the ITU long household questionnaire that is sent to all NSOs in Q3 each year. Data are released in December of each year.

**Data release:**
Data providers

National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

Data compilers

ITU

References

URL:


References:

Since the definition and methodology of this indicator will only be collected as of 2015, the indicator is not yet included in the ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals 2014. It will be included in the next version of the Manual.

For a discussion on the importance of this indicators, see also the UNCTAD, Measuring ICT and gender: an assessment.

Related indicators

1.4, 2.c, 11.b, 12.8, 13.1, 16.10, 17.8
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Indicator 5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

Institutional information

Organization(s):
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
World Health Organization (WHO)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
This indicator measures the percentage of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older who have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the previous 12 months.

Definition of violence against women and girls and of the forms of violence specified under this indicator are presented in the next section (Concepts).

Rationale:
Violence directed at women and girls is the most common form of gender-based violence. In societies that sanction male dominance over women, violence between intimate partners may be perceived as an ordinary component of interpersonal dynamics between the sexes, particularly in the context of marriage or other formal unions. Therefore, it represents one manifestation of gender inequality.

Prevalence data are required to measure the magnitude of the problem; understand the various forms of violence and their consequences; identify groups at high risk; explore the barriers to seeking help; and ensure that the appropriate responses are being provided. These data are the starting point for informing laws, policies, and developing effective responses and programmes, as needed. They also allow countries to monitor change over time and assess the effectiveness of their interventions.

Concepts:
According to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), Violence against Women is “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm
or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family [...]”. See here for full definition: http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm

Intimate partner violence includes any abuse perpetrated by a current or former partner within the context of marriage, cohabitation or any other formal or informal union.

The different forms of violence included in the indicator are defined as follows:

1. Physical violence consists of acts aimed at physically hurting the victim and include, but are not limited to, pushing, grabbing, twisting the arm, pulling the hair, slapping, kicking, biting or hitting with the fist or object, trying to strangle or suffocate, burning or scalding on purpose, or threatening or attacking with some sort of weapon, gun or knife.

2. Sexual violence is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, incest, sexual harassment, etc. In intimate partner relationships, experiencing sexual violence is commonly defined as being forced to have sexual intercourse, having sexual intercourse out of fear for what the partner might do, and/or being forced to do something sexual that the woman considers humiliating or degrading.

3. Psychological violence includes a range of behaviours that encompass acts of emotional abuse and controlling behaviour. These often coexist with acts of physical and sexual violence by intimate partners and are acts of violence in themselves.

For a more detailed definition of physical, sexual and psychological violence against women see Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys (UN, 2014).

Comments and limitations:

Comparability:

The availability of comparable data remains a challenge in this area as many data collection efforts have relied on different survey methodologies, used different definitions of partner or spousal violence and of the different forms of violence and different survey question formulations, and diverse age groups are often utilized. Willingness to discuss experiences of violence and understanding of relevant concepts may also differ according to the cultural context and this can affect reported prevalence levels.

Regularity of data production:

Since 1995, only some 40 countries have conducted more than one survey on violence against women. Obtaining data on violence against women is a costly and time-consuming exercise, no matter if they are obtained through stand-alone dedicated surveys or through modules inserted in other surveys. Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) are conducted every 5 years or so and dedicated surveys, if repeated, are conducted with less periodicity than this. Monitoring this indicator with certain periodicity may be a challenge if sustained capacities are not built and financial resources are not available.
Methodology

Computation Method:

This indicator calls for breakdown by form of violence and by age group and yields the following for each form of violence or forms of violence:

1. Physical violence:

Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience physical violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months divided by the number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) in the population multiplied by 100

2. Sexual violence:

Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months divided by the number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) in the population multiplied by 100

3. Psychological violence:

Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months divided by the number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) multiplied by 100

4. Any form of physical and/or sexual violence:

Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months divided by the number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) multiplied by 100

5. Any form of physical, sexual and/or psychological violence:

Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience physical, sexual and/or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months divided by the number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) multiplied by 100

Disaggregation:

In addition to form of violence and age, income/wealth, education, ethnicity (including indigenous status), disability status, geographic location and frequency of violence are suggested as desired variables for disaggregation for this indicator.

Treatment of missing values:

- At country level

When data for a country are entirely missing, no country-level estimate is published.
At regional and global levels

No imputations are made in cases where country data are not available. Where regional and global figures are presented, clear notes on data limitations are provided. The number of countries included in the average is clearly indicated.

Regional aggregates:

Global aggregates are weighted averages of all the sub-regions that make up the world. Regional aggregates are weighted averages of all the countries within the region. Where data are not available for all countries in a given region, regional aggregates may still be calculated if the minimum threshold for population coverage is met. The number of countries included in the average is clearly indicated.

Sources of discrepancies:

Only figures published by countries are used.

Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:

Data sources:


Quality assurance

This is to be developed in detail. The following criteria were used for the selection of data to be included in the database that guaranteed quality and comparability of the data:

1. Nationally representative data;
2. Collected through household surveys;
3. Comparable definition of physical and sexual intimate partner violence across countries;
4. Comparable age range (15-49);
5. Reliable data source.

Data were extracted from public published national reports and databases associated with these reports made available by data producers. No estimates or computations were done.

Data Sources

Description:
The main sources of intimate partner violence prevalence data are (1) specialized national surveys dedicated to measuring violence against women and (2) international household surveys that include a module on experiences of violence by women, such as the DHS.

Although administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, among other services used by survivors of violence, can provide information on violence against women and girls, these do not produce prevalence data, but rather incidence data or number of cases received in/reported to these services. We know that many abused women do not report violence and those who do, tend to be only the most serious cases. Therefore, administrative data should not be used as a data source for this indicator.

For more information on recommended practices in production of violence against women statistics see: *UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women- Statistical Surveys* (UN, 2014).

**List:**

NA

**Collection process:**

An Inter-Agency Group on Violence against Women Data and its Technical Advisory Group is currently being established (jointly by WHO, UN Women, UNICEF, UNSD and UNFPA) to establish a mechanism for compiling harmonized country level data on this indicator.

**Data Availability**

**Description:**

About 100 countries have conducted violence against women national prevalence surveys or have included a module on violence against women in a national household survey on other topic, and most of them include data on intimate partner violence. However, not all these data are comparable and in many cases they are not collected on a regular basis.

Comparable data are available for a sub-sample of women and girls aged 15-49 for 52 low- and middle-income countries.

**Time series:**

Time series are available for some countries. Global time series with comparable data not yet available.

**Calendar**
Data collection:
NA

Data release:
NA

Data providers

Name:
National Statistical Offices (in most cases) or line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on violence against women and girls.

Description:
National Statistical Offices (in most cases) or line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on violence against women and girls.

Data compilers

Name:
UN Women, UNICEF, UNSD, WHO, UNFPA

Description:
UN Women, UNICEF, UNSD, WHO, UNFPA

Comment:
NA

References

URL:
http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en
data.unicef.org
References:

3. World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council, 2013. Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.
7. UNSD dedicated portal for data and metadata on violence against women: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/vaw/

Related indicators

5.2.2:
Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

11.7.2:
Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and pace of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

16.1.3:
Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

16.2.3:
Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Indicator 5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Institutional information

Organization(s):
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
This indicator measures the percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older who have experienced sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the previous 12 months.

Definition of sexual violence against women and girls is presented in the next section (Concepts).

Rationale:
Violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violations in the world. Evidence has shown that globally, an estimated 7% of women have been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner at some point in their lives (WHO et al., 2013). Having data on this indicator will help understand the extent and nature of this form of violence and develop appropriate policies and programmes.

Concepts:
According to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), Violence against Women is “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: [...] Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and

Sexual violence is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, incest, sexual harassment, etc. However, in most surveys that collect data on sexual violence against women and girls by non-partners the information collected is limited to forcing someone into sexual intercourse when she does not want to, as well as attempting to force someone to perform a sexual act against her will or attempting to force her into sexual intercourse.

For a more detailed definition of sexual violence against women see Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women - Statistical Surveys (UN, 2014).

Comments and limitations:

Comparability:
The availability of comparable data remains a challenge in this area as many data collection efforts have relied on different survey methodologies and used different definitions of sexual violence and different survey question formulation. Diverse age groups are also often utilized. Willingness to discuss experiences of violence and understanding of relevant concepts may also differ according to the cultural context and this can affect reported prevalence levels.

Efforts and investment will be required to develop an internationally-agreed standard and definition of sexual violence by non-partners that will enable comparison across countries.

Regularity of data production:

Since 1995, only some 40 countries have conducted more than one survey on violence against women and girls. Obtaining data on violence against women and girls is a costly and time-consuming exercise, no matter if they are obtained through stand-alone dedicated surveys or through modules inserted in other surveys. Not all VAW surveys, however, collect information on non-intimate partner violence. Monitoring this indicator with certain periodicity may be a challenge if sustained capacities are not built and financial resources are not available.

Methodology

Computation Method:

This indicator calls for disaggregation by age group and place of occurrence. No standard definitions and methods have been globally agreed yet to collect data on the place where the violence occurs, therefore this is not presented at this point in the computation method below.

Number of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experience sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months divided by the number of women and girls aged 15 years and above in the population multiplied by 100.
Disaggregation:
In addition to age and place of occurrence, income/wealth, education, ethnicity (including indigenous status), disability status, geographic location, relationship with the perpetrator (including sex of perpetrator) and frequency and type of sexual violence (as proxy to severity) are suggested as desired variables for disaggregation for this indicator.

Treatment of missing values:
At country level
When data for a country are entirely missing, no country-level estimate is published.
At regional and global levels
No imputations are made in cases where country data are not available. Where regional and global figures are presented, clear notes on data limitations are provided. The number of countries included in the average is clearly indicated.

Regional aggregates:
Global aggregates are weighted averages of all the sub-regions that make up the world. Regional aggregates are weighted averages of all the countries within the region. Where data are not available for all countries in a given region, regional aggregates may still be calculated if the minimum threshold for population coverage is met. The number of countries included in the average is clearly indicated.

Sources of discrepancies:
Only figures published by countries are used.

Data Sources
Description:
The main sources of intimate partner violence prevalence data are (1) specialized national surveys dedicated to measuring violence against women and (2) international household surveys that include a module on experiences of violence by women, such as the DHS.
Although administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, among other services used by survivors of violence, can provide information on violence against women and girls, these do not produce prevalence data, but rather incidence data or number of cases received in/reported to these services. We know that many abused women do not report violence and those who do, tend to be only the most serious cases. Therefore, administrative data should not be used as a data source for this indicator.
For more information on recommended practices in production of violence against women statistics see: *UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women- Statistical Surveys* (UN, 2014).

**List:**
NA

**Collection process:**
An Inter-Agency Group on Violence against Women Data and its Technical Advisory Group is currently being established (jointly by WHO, UN Women, UNICEF, UNSD and UNFPA) to establish a mechanism for compiling harmonized country level data on this indicator.

**Data Availability**

**Description:**
About 100 countries have conducted violence against women national prevalence surveys or have included a module on violence against women in a national household survey on other topic, although not all include data on non-partner sexual violence. Moreover, not all these data are comparable and in many cases they are not collected on a regular basis.

Comparable data are available for a sub-sample of women and girls aged 15-49 for 37 low- and middle-income countries.

**Time series:**
Time series are available for some countries. Global time series with comparable data not yet available.

**Calendar**

**Data collection:**
NA

**Data release:**
NA

**Data providers**

**Name:**
National Statistical Offices (in most cases) or line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on violence against women and girls.

Description:
National Statistical Offices (in most cases) or line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on violence against women and girls.

Data compilers

Name:
UN Women, UNICEF, UNSD, WHO, UNFPA

Description:
UN Women, UNICEF, UNSD, WHO, UNFPA

Comment:
NA

References

URL:
http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en
data.unicef.org

References:


3. World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council, 2013. Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.


7. UNSD dedicated portal for data and metadata on violence against women: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/vaw/

Related indicators

5.2.1:
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

11.7.2:
Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and pace of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

16.1.3:
Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

16.2.3:
Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Comments:
NA
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
Indicator 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Institutional information

Organization(s):
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Rationale:
Marriage before the age of 18 is a fundamental violation of human rights. Child marriage often compromises a girl’s development by resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, limiting her opportunities for career and vocational advancement and placing her at increased risk of intimate partner violence. In many cultures, girls reaching puberty are expected to assume gender roles associated with womanhood. These include entering a union and becoming a mother.

The practice of early/child marriage is a direct manifestation of gender inequality.

The issue of child marriage is addressed in a number of international conventions and agreements. Although marriage is not mentioned directly in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, child marriage is linked to other rights – such as the right to freedom of expression, the right to protection from all forms of abuse, and the right to be protected from harmful traditional practices.

Concepts:
Both formal (i.e., marriages) and informal unions are covered under this indicator. Informal unions are generally defined as those in which a couple lives together for some time, intends to have a lasting relationship, but for which there has been no formal civil or religious ceremony (i.e., cohabitation).

Comments and limitations:
There are existing tools and mechanisms for data collection that countries have implemented to monitor the situation with regards to this indicator. The modules used to collect information on marital status among women and men of reproductive age (15-49 years) in the DHS and MICS have been fully harmonized.

**Methodology**

**Computation Method:**
Number of women aged 20-24 who were first married or in union before age 15 (or before age 18) divided by the total number of women aged 20-24 in the population multiplied by 100

**Disaggregation:**
Age, income, place of residence, geographic location, education, ethnicity (for some countries)

**Treatment of missing values:**
- **At country level**
  When data for a country are entirely missing, UNICEF does not publish any country-level estimate
- **At regional and global levels**
  The regional average is applied to those countries within the region with missing values for the purposes of calculating regional aggregates only but are not published as country-level estimates.

**Regional aggregates:**
Global aggregates are weighted averages of all the sub-regions that make up the world. Regional aggregates are weighted averages of all the countries within the region.

**Data Sources**

**Description:**
Household surveys such as UNICEF-supported MICS and DHS have been collecting data on this indicator in low- and middle-income countries since around the late 1980s. In some countries, such data are also collected through national censuses or other national household surveys.

**Collection process:**
UNICEF undertakes an annual process to update its global databases, called Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING). This exercise is done in close collaboration with UNICEF country offices with the purpose of
ensuring that UNICEF global databases contain updated and internationally comparable data. UNICEF Country Offices are invited to submit, through an online system, any updated data for a number of key indicators on the well-being of women and children. Updates sent by the country offices are then reviewed by sector specialists at UNICEF headquarters to check for consistency and overall data quality of the submitted estimates. This review is based on a set of objective criteria to ensure that only the most recent and reliable information is included in the databases. Once reviewed, feedback is made available on whether or not specific data points are accepted, and if not, the reasons why. New data points that are accepted are then entered into UNICEF’s global databases and published in the State of the World’s Children statistical tables, as well as in all other data-driven publications/material. The updated databases are also posted online at data.unicef.org.

UNICEF also searches throughout the year for additional sources of data that are vetted by the UNICEF country office before they are included in the global databases.

**Data Availability**

Comparable data on this indicator are currently available for 124 low- and middle-income countries

**Calendar**

NA

**Data providers**

National Statistical Offices (in most cases)

**Data compilers**

UNICEF

**References**

**URL:**

data.unicef.org

**References:**

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
Indicator 5.3.2: Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

Institutional information

Organization(s):
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting is currently being measured by the proportion of girls aged 15-19 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting.

Rationale:
FGM/C is a violation of girls’ and women’s human rights. There is a large body of literature documenting the adverse health consequences of FGM/C over both the short and long term. The practice of FGM/C is a direct manifestation of gender inequality.

FGM/C is condemned by a number of international treaties and conventions. Since FGM/C is regarded as a traditional practice prejudicial to the health of children and is, in most cases, performed on minors, it violates the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Existing national legislation in many countries also include explicit bans against FGM/C.

Concepts:
Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) refers to “all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons” (World Health Organization, Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An interagency statement, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNECA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNAIDS, WHO, Geneva, 2008, p.4)

Comments and limitations:
There are existing tools and mechanisms for data collection that countries have implemented to monitor the situation with regards to this indicator. The modules used to collect information on the circumcision status of girls aged 0-14 and women aged 15-49 in the DHS and MICS have been fully harmonized.
**Methodology**

**Computation Method:**

Number of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone FGM/C divided by the total number of girls and women aged 15-49 in the population multiplied by 100

**Disaggregation:**

Age, income, place of residence, geographic location, ethnicity, education

**Treatment of missing values:**

- **At country level**

  When data for a country are entirely missing, UNICEF does not publish any country-level estimate

- **At regional and global levels**

  NA

**Regional aggregates:**

Global aggregates are weighted averages of all the countries with nationally representative prevalence data

**Data Sources**

**Description:**

Household surveys such as UNICEF-supported MICS and DHS have been collecting data on this indicator in low- and middle-income countries since the late 1980s. In some countries, such data are also collected through other national household surveys.

**Collection process:**

UNICEF undertakes an annual process to update its global databases, called Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING). This exercise is done in close collaboration with UNICEF country offices with the purpose of ensuring that UNICEF global databases contain updated and internationally comparable data. UNICEF Country Offices are invited to submit, through an online system, any updated data for a number of key indicators on the well-being of women and children. Updates sent by the country offices are then reviewed by sector specialists at
UNICEF headquarters to check for consistency and overall data quality of the submitted estimates. This review is based on a set of objective criteria to ensure that only the most recent and reliable information is included in the databases. Once reviewed, feedback is made available on whether or not specific data points are accepted, and if not, the reasons why. New data points that are accepted are then entered into UNICEF’s global databases and published in the State of the World’s Children statistical tables, as well as in all other data-driven publications/material. The updated databases are also posted online at data.unicef.org.

UNICEF also searches throughout the year for additional sources of data that are vetted by the UNICEF country office before they are included in the global databases.

**Data Availability**

Nationally representative prevalence data are currently available for 30 low- and middle-income countries

**Calendar**

NA

**Data providers**

National Statistical Offices (in most cases)

**Data compilers**

UNICEF

**References**

**URL:**

data.unicef.org

**References:**

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
Indicator 5.4.1: Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

Institutional information

Organization(s):
UN Statistics Division (UNSD)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work refers to the average time women and men spend on household provision of services for own consumption. Domestic and care work includes food preparation, dishwashing, cleaning and upkeep of a dwelling, laundry, ironing, gardening, caring for pets, shopping, installation, servicing and repair of personal and household goods, childcare, and care of the sick, elderly or disabled household members, among others.

Concepts:
Concepts and definitions for this indicator are based on the following international standards:
- System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008)
- The Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) at its 19th Session in 2013
- International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics 2016 (ICATUS 2016)

Relevant specific concepts are presented below:

- An activity is said to be productive or to fall within the “general production boundary” if it satisfies the third-person criterion (the activity can be delegated to another person and yield the same desired results).

- Productive activities can be further classified based on the ILO framework for work statistics (included in the 19th ICLS resolution) into:

  a. Own-use production work (activities to produce goods and services for own final use; the intended destination of the output is mainly for final use of the producer in the form of capital formation, or final consumption by household members or by family members living in other households; in the case of agricultural, fishing, hunting or gathering goods intended mainly for own consumption, a part or surplus may nevertheless be sold or bartered)
b. Employment (activities to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit)
c. Unpaid trainee work (any unpaid activity to produce goods or provide services for others, in order to acquire workplace experience or skills in a trade or profession)
d. Volunteer work (any unpaid, non-compulsory activity to produce goods or provide services for others)
e. Other forms of work

The own-use production work can be differentiated based on whether goods or services are produced.

Indicator 5.4.1 only considers the own-use production work of services, or in other words, the activities related to unpaid domestic services and unpaid caregiving services undertaken by households for their own use. These activities are listed in ICATUS 2016 under the major divisions “3. Unpaid domestic services for household and family members” and “4. Unpaid caregiving services for household and family members”.

An additional concept is the “overall time spent on unpaid work” which is calculated as the time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (indicator 5.4.1) plus the time spent on community and/or volunteer work. Community and/or volunteer work includes volunteer services for organizations, unpaid community work, and informal help to other households, among other activities.

As much as possible, statistics compiled by UNSD are based on the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics 2016 (ICATUS 2016), which classifies activities undertaken by persons during the survey period. ICATUS 2016 was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission for use as an international statistical classification at its 48th session, 7-10 March 2017.

Comments and limitations:
Time use statistics have been used for: (a) the measurement and analysis of quality of life or general well-being; (b) a more comprehensive measurement of all forms of work, including unpaid and volunteer work; and (c) for the improvement of estimates on the production of goods and services with particular emphasis on increasing visibility of women’s work through better statistics on their contribution to the economy and the development of satellite accounts.

International comparability of time-use statistics is limited by a number of factors, including:

a. Diary versus stylized time-use survey. Data on time-use can be collected through a 24-hour diary (light diary) or stylized questionnaire. With diaries, respondents are asked to report on what activity they were performing when they started the day, what activity followed, and the time that activity began and ended, and so forth through the 24 hours of the day. Stylized time-use questions ask respondents to recall the amount of time they allocated to a certain activity over a specified period, such as a day or week. Often, stylized time-use questions are attached as a module to a multipurpose household survey. The 24-hour diary method yields better results than the stylized method but is a more expensive mode of data collection. Data obtained from these two different data collection methods are usually not comparable, and even data collected with different stylized questions might not be comparable given that the level of details asked about activities performed might differ from one instrument to another, thus impacting the total time spent on a given activity.
b. Time-use activity classification. Regional and national classifications of time-use activities may differ from ICATUS 2016, resulting in data that are not comparable across countries.

c. Time-use data presented refer to the “main activity” only. Any “secondary activity” performed simultaneously with the main activity is not reflected in the average times shown. For instance, a woman may be cooking and looking after a child simultaneously. For countries reporting cooking as the main activity, time spent caring for children is not accounted for and reflected in the statistics. This may affect international comparability of data on time spent caring for children; it may also underestimate the time women spend on this activity.

d. Different target age population used by countries and age groups used also make time use data difficult to compare across countries.

**Methodology**

**Computation Method:**
Data presented for this indicator are expressed as a proportion of time in a day. Weekly data is averaged over seven days of the week to obtain the daily average time.

Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work is calculated by dividing the daily average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic and care work by 24 hours.

Average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic and care work derives from time use statistics that is collected through stand-alone time-use surveys or a time-use module in multi-purpose household surveys. Data on time-use may be summarized and presented as either (1) average time spent for participants (in a given activity) only or (2) average time spent for all population of a certain age (total relevant population). In the former type of averages, the total time spent by the individuals who performed an activity is divided by the number of persons who performed it (participants). In the latter type of averages, the total time is divided by the total relevant population (or a sub-group thereof), regardless of whether people performed the activity or not.

*SDG indicator 5.4.1 is calculated based on the average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic and unpaid care work for the total relevant population. This type of measures can be used to compare groups and assess changes over time. Differences among groups or over time may be due to a difference (or change) in the proportion of those participating in the specific activity or a difference (or change) in the amount of time spent by participants, or both.*

**Disaggregation:**
Available data are currently disaggregated only by sex.

**Treatment of missing values:**

- At country level
  UNSD does not produce estimates for missing values at this time

- At regional and global levels
No imputation is done

**Regional aggregates:**
The number of countries conducting such surveys is insufficient to allow the computation of regional aggregates. Furthermore, limited comparability across national data hampers the computation of regional aggregates.

**Sources of discrepancies:**
Do not apply

**Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:**
International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics 2016:
Guide to Producing Statistics on Time-Use: Measuring Paid und Unpaid Work:
The Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization:

**Quality assurance**
UNSD has been reviewing in details the survey methodology followed to collect time use data and the classification of activities used by countries, to assess the level of comparability across countries and over time in a given country.

Most of the data are provided by national statistical offices or extracted from national databases and publications. UNSD communicates with countries if there are inconsistencies or possible errors in the data.

**Data Sources**

**Description:**
Most data on time use are collected through dedicated time use surveys or from time-use modules integrated in multi-purpose household surveys, conducted at national level.

Data on time-use can be collected through a 24-hour diary (light diary) or stylized questionnaire. With diaries, respondents are asked to report on what activity they were performing when they started the day, what activity followed, and the time that activity began and ended (in most of the cases based on fixed intervals), and so forth through the 24 hours of the day. Stylized time-use questions ask respondents to recall the amount of time they allocated to a certain activity over a specified period, such as a day or a week. Often, stylized time-use questions are attached as a module to a multipurpose household survey. The 24-hour diary method yields better results than the stylized method but is a more expensive mode of data collection.
**Collection process:**
The official counterparts at the country level are the national statistical offices. Data are compiled and validated. If there are inconsistencies or issues with the data, UNSD consults the focal point in the national statistical office. The data for SDG 5.4.1 are, as much as possible, in line with relevant international standards, or properly footnoted. International standards include:

- The International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics 2016 (ICATUS 2016)
- System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008)
- Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization

**Data Availability**

**Description:**
83 countries with data between 2000 and 2016

**By Year:**
- From 2000 – 2004: 42 countries
- From 2005 – 2009: 40 countries
- From 2010: 51 countries

**By Region (2000 – 2016):**
- Africa: 13 countries
- Americas: 17 countries
- Asia: 21 countries
- Europe: 30 countries
- Oceania: 2 countries

**Time series:**
- From 2000 to 2016

**Calendar**

**Data collection:**
Once national time use data become available, they are added to the UNSD database.

**Data release:**
April/May 2018

**Data providers**
National Statistical Offices

Data compilers

United Nations Statistics Division

References

URL:

References:
- Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (http://genderstats.un.org)
- Data and metadata portal for time use indicators (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/)
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

Institutional information

Organization(s):
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
The proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments, currently as at 1 February of reporting year, is currently measured as the number of seats held by women members in single or lower chambers of national parliaments, expressed as a percentage of all occupied seats.

National parliaments can be bicameral or unicameral. This indicator covers the single chamber in unicameral parliaments and the lower chamber in bicameral parliaments. It does not cover the upper chamber of bicameral parliaments. Seats are usually won by members in general parliamentary elections. Seats may also be filled by nomination, appointment, indirect election, rotation of members and by-election.

Seats refer to the number of parliamentary mandates, or the number of members of parliament.

Rationale:
The indicator measures the degree to which women have equal access to parliamentary decision making. Women’s participation in parliaments is a key aspect of women’s opportunities in political and public life, and is therefore linked to women’s empowerment. Equal numbers of women and men in lower chambers would give an indicator value of 50 per cent.

A stronger presence of women in parliament allows new concerns to be highlighted on political agendas, and new priorities to be put into practice through the adoption and implementation of policies and laws. The inclusion of the perspectives and interests of women is a prerequisite for democracy and gender equality, and contributes to good governance. A representative parliament also allows the different experiences of men and women to affect the social, political and economic future of societies.

Changes in the indicator have been tracked over time. Although the international community has supported and promoted women’s participation in political decision-making structures for several decades, improvement in women’s access to parliament has been slow. This has led to the introduction of special policy measures to increase women’s shares of parliamentary seats in several countries. Those countries that have adopted special measures generally have greater representation of women in parliament than countries without special measures.
Concepts:
Seats refer to the number of parliamentary mandates, also known as the number of members of parliament. Seats are usually won by members in general parliamentary elections. Seats may also be filled by nomination, appointment, indirect election, rotation of members and by-election.

Comments and limitations:
- The number of countries covered varies with suspensions or dissolutions of parliaments. As of 1 February 2016, 193 countries are included.
- There can be difficulties in obtaining information on by-election results and replacements due to death or resignation. These changes are ad hoc events which are more difficult to keep track of. By-elections, for instance, are often not announced internationally as general elections are.
- The data excludes the numbers and percentages of women in upper chambers of parliament. The information is available on the IPU website at http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm.
- Parliaments vary considerably in their internal workings and procedures, however, generally legislate, oversee government and represent the electorate. In terms of measuring women’s contribution to political decision making, this indicator may not be sufficient because some women may face obstacles in fully and efficiently carrying out their parliamentary mandate.

Methodology

Computation Method:
The proportion of seats held by women in national parliament is derived by dividing the total number of seats occupied by women by the total number of seats in parliament.

There is no weighting or normalising of statistics.

Disaggregation:
The indicator can be disaggregated for analysis by geographical region and sub-region, legislature type (single or lower, parliamentary or presidential), the method of filling seats (directly elected, indirectly elected, appointed) and the use of special measures.

Treatment of missing values:
No adjustments are made for missing values.

Sources of discrepancies:
Data are not adjusted for international comparability. Though, for international comparisons, generally only the single or lower house is considered in calculating the indicator.

Data Sources

Description:
The data used are official statistics received from parliaments.
Collection process:
The data are provided by national parliaments and updated after an election or parliamentary renewal. National parliaments also transmit their data to the IPU at least once a year and when the numbers change significantly. IPU member parliaments provide information on changes and updates to the IPU secretariat. After each general election or renewal a questionnaire is dispatched to parliaments to solicit the latest available data. If no response is provided, other methods are used to obtain the information, such as from the electoral management body, parliamentary web sites or Internet searches. Additional information gathered from other sources is regularly crosschecked with parliament.

Data Availability

Description:
Data are available for 193 countries. Information is available in all countries where a national legislature exists and therefore does not include parliaments that have been dissolved or suspended for an indefinite period.

Time series:
According to IPU website the data extraction has changed over time as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>As of date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 - Present</td>
<td>As at 1 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>As at 5 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>As at 4 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001, 2004</td>
<td>As at 30 January</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>1998, 2000</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Prior to 1997</td>
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</table>

Calendar

Data collection:
Data are updated on a monthly basis, up to the last day of the month.

Data release:
Data are updated on a monthly basis, up to the last day of the month.

Data providers

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) member parliaments
Data compilers

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

References

URL:
http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif-arc.htm
http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm

References:

Related indicators
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
Indicator 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions

Institutional information

Organization(s):
International Labour Organization (ILO)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
This indicator refers to the proportion of females in the total number of persons employed in senior and middle management. For the purposes of this indicator, senior and middle management correspond to major group 1 in both ISCO-08 and ISCO-88 minus category 14 in ISCO-08 (hospitality, retail and other services managers) and minus category 13 in ISCO-88 (general managers), since these comprise mainly managers of small enterprises. If statistics are not disaggregated at the sub-major level, then major group 1 of ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 could be used as a proxy.

Rationale:
The indicator provides information on the proportion of women who are employed in decision-making and management roles in government, large enterprises and institutions, thus providing some insight into women’s power in decision making and in the economy (especially compared to men's power in those areas).

Concepts:
The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) organizes jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job. The first version of ISCO was published in 1958 and since then, ISCO has been revised in 1968, 1988 and 2008. Employed persons are all persons of working age who during a specified brief period, such as one week or one day, were in the following categories: a) paid employment (whether at work or with a job but not at work); or b) self-employment (whether at work or with an enterprise but not at work). For more detailed information, please refer to the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by the Nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (October 2013): http://ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/resolutions-adopted-by-international-conferences-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_230304/lang--en/index.htm
**Comments and limitations:**

This indicator's main limitation is that it does not reflect differences in the levels of responsibility of women in these high and middle level positions or the importance of the enterprises and organizations in which they are employed.

Its quality is also heavily dependent on the reliability of the employment statistics by occupation at the two-digit level of the ISCO.

**Methodology**

**Computation Method:**

Proportion of women in managerial positions = \( \frac{\text{Women employed in ISCO-08 category 1 - Women employed in ISCO-08 category 14}}{\text{All persons employed in ISCO-08 category 1} - \text{all persons employed in ISCO-08 category 14}} \times 100 \)

or

Proportion of women in managerial positions = \( \frac{\text{Women employed in ISCO-88 category 1 - Women employed in ISCO-88 category 13}}{\text{All persons employed in ISCO-88 category 1} - \text{all persons employed in ISCO-88 category 13}} \times 100 \)

**Disaggregation:**

This indicator requires no disaggregation per se, although employment statistics both by sex and by occupation are needed to calculate it.

If statistics are available and the sample size permits, it may be of interest to cross-tabulate this indicator by economic activity (ISIC) or disaggregate further to observe the share of women across more detailed occupational groups.

**Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:**

In order to calculate this indicator, data on employment by sex and occupation is needed, using at least the 2-digit level of the International Standard Classification of Occupations. This data is collected at the national level mainly through labour force surveys (or other types of household surveys with an employment module). For the methodology of each national household survey, one must refer to the most comprehensive survey report or to the methodological publications of the national statistical office in question.

Quality assurance:

Data consistency and quality checks regularly conducted for validation of the data before dissemination in the ILOSTAT database.

In many cases, data reported to the ILO Department of Statistics through its annual questionnaire on labour statistics, by national statistical offices or other relevant national agencies. Data also received in other cases through agreements between the ILO Department of Statistics and regional or national statistical agencies.

Data Sources

The recommended source for this indicator is a labour force survey or, if not available, other similar types of household surveys, including a module on employment. In the absence of any labour-related household survey, establishment surveys or administrative records may be used to gather information on the female share of employment by the required ISCO groups. In cases where establishment surveys or administrative records are used, the coverage is likely to be limited to formal enterprises or enterprises of a certain size. Information on the enterprises covered should be provided with the figures. When comparing figures across years, any changes in the versions of ISCO that are used should be taken into account.

Data Availability

NA

Calendar

Data collection:

The ILO Department of Statistics sends out its annual questionnaire on labour statistics every year, usually in the 2nd quarter, with a view to receiving the requested statistics by the 3rd quarter or the end of the year at most. Indicator 5.5.2 is calculated from statistics submitted to the ILO Department of Statistics via this questionnaire.

Data release:

The ILO Department of Statistics' online database ILOSTAT is continuously updated to reflect statistics compiled and processed every week. In general, statistics for EUROSTAT and OECD countries are available around the 2nd or 3rd quarter of the year following the year of reference, whereas they are usually available around the 3rd or 4th quarter of the year following the year of reference for the other countries.
Data providers

National Statistical Offices

Data compilers

ILO

References

URL:

www.ilo.org/ilostat

References:

ILOSTAT database: www.ilo.org/ilostat


ISCO-08: http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/


Related indicators

8.5
Goal: 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Indicator 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

Institutional information

Organization(s):
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
Proportion of women aged 15-49 years (married or in union) who make their own decision on all three selected areas i.e. can say no to sexual intercourse with their husband or partner if they do not want; decide on use of contraception; and decide on their own health care. Only women who provide a “yes” answer to all three components are considered as women who “make her own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive”.

Whilst the aspiration of the indicator is to measure, among the three components, women’s decision-making on reproductive health care, current data provides information on women’s decision-making on health care in general. Expert group consultations recommended a specific, scenario-based question that speaks directly to decision-making about reproductive health care as follows:

“Who takes the decision on when you can go to seek reproductive health care, for example, if you experience a painful or burning sensation when urinating?”
- Mainly respondent
- Mainly husband/partner
- Joint decision
- Other (specify)

Efforts are under way to pilot and refine the question for inclusion in future national surveys including in DHS and MICS. Whilst the process to collect data on women’s decision on reproductive health care are under way, data on Indicator 5.6.1 will be based on available information on women’s decision-making on “health care”.

Women’s autonomy in decision-making and exercise of their reproductive rights is assessed from responses to the following three questions:

1. Can you say no to your (husband/partner) if you do not want to have sexual intercourse?
   - YES .................................................. 1
   - NO .................................................... 2
   - DEPENDS/NOT SURE ............................... 8
2. Would you say that using contraception is mainly your decision, mainly your (husband’s/ partner’s) decision, or did you both decide together?
   - MAINLY RESPONDENT ............... 1
   - MAINLY HUSBAND/PARTNER .......... 2
   - JOINT DECISION .................... 3
   - OTHER SPECIFY

3. Who usually makes decisions about health care for yourself?
   - YOU,
   - YOUR (HUSBAND/PARTNER),
   - YOU AND YOUR (HUSBAND/PARTNER) JOINTLY,
   - SOMEONE ELSE?

A woman is considered to have autonomy in reproductive health decision making and to be empowered to exercise their reproductive rights if they (1) can say “NO’ to sex with their husband/partner if they do not want to, (2) decide on use/ non-use of contraception and (3) decide on health care for themselves.

Rationale:
Women’s and girls’ autonomy in decision making over consensual sexual relations, contraceptive use and access to sexual and reproductive health services is key to their empowerment and the full exercise of their reproductive rights.

A woman’s ability to say “no” to her husband/partner if she does not want to have sexual intercourse is well aligned with the concept of sexual autonomy and women’s empowerment.

Regarding decision-making on use of contraception, the expert views as well as the initial data charts for several countries indicated that a clearer understanding of women empowerment is obtained by looking at the indicator from the perspective of decisions being made “mainly by the partner”, as opposed to decision being made “by the woman alone” or “by the woman jointly with the partner”. Depending in the type of contraceptive method being used, a decision by the woman “alone” or “jointly with the partner” does not always entail that the woman is empowered or has bargaining skills. Conversely, it is safe to assume that a woman that does not participate, at all, in making contraceptive choices is disempowered as far as sexual and reproductive decisions are concerned.

Women who make their own decision regarding seeking healthcare for themselves are considered empowered to exercise their reproductive rights.

Concepts:
A union involves a man and a woman regularly cohabiting in a married like relationship.

Comments and limitations:
A key limitation is that current estimates of the indicator are based on currently married or in union women of reproductive age (15-49 years old) who are using any type of contraception. In the current DHS, the question on decision-making on use of contraception is only asked to women who are currently using contraception. Because the questions on decision-making on sexual relations and health care are restricted to women (15-49) currently married or in union, the denominator for Indicator 5.6.1 is women 15-49, who are currently married or in union and currently using contraception.
However, agreement has been reached with Macro/ICF for upcoming DHS surveys to ask the question on decision on use of contraception to all married/in union women aged 15-49 years, whether they are currently using any contraception or not. The DHS model questionnaire for Phase 7 already includes the question on decision-making for women who are not currently using any contraception (DHS7 Woman’s Questionnaire, 17 May 2016 version, Q820.)

In many national contexts, household surveys, which are the main data source for this indicator, exclude the homeless and are likely to under-enumerate linguistic or religious minority groups.

Methodology

Computation Method:

Numerator: Number of married or in union women aged 15-49 years old:

- who can say “no” to sex; and
- for whom the decision on contraception is not mainly made by the husband/partner; and
- for whom decision on health care for themselves is not usually made by the husband/partner or someone else

Only women who satisfy all three empowerment criteria are included in the numerator.

Denominator: Total number women aged 15-49 years old), who are married or in union.

Proportion = Numerator X 100/Denominator

Disaggregation:
Based on available DHS data, disaggregation is possible by age, geographic location, place of residence, education, and wealth quintile.

Treatment of missing values:
- At country level

No attempt from UNFPA to provide and publish estimates for individual countries or areas when country or area data are not available.

- At regional and global levels

Regional aggregates are based on countries where data are available within the region. They should not be treated as country-level estimates for countries with missing values within the region.

Regional aggregates:
Global and regional aggregates are computed as weighted averages of country level data. The weighting is based on the estimated population of married women aged 15-49, who are using any type of contraception. The estimates of number of women married/in union and contraceptive prevalence rate are obtained from UN Population Division

Sources of discrepancies:
Not applicable.

Data Sources

Description:
Current data on the indicator are derived from nationally representative demographic and surveys (DHS). Plans are underway to broaden the data sources to include MICs and other country specific surveys.

Collection process:
Data is collected in line with the methodology used for the relevant national survey.

Data Availability

Description:
The Indicator is measured from demographic and health surveys (DHS) covering selected of low and middle income countries. Currently data for Indicator 5.6.1 is available as follows:

- Data on Question 1 “Can you say no to your husband/partner if you do not want to have sexual intercourse?“ exists in Demographic and Health Surveys for 45 countries, and is asked to women 15-49, who are married or in union.

- For Question 2 “Would you say that using contraception is mainly your decision, mainly your (husband’s/ partner’s) decision, or did you both decide together?” This question has been included in DHS in 66 countries conducted since 2005. However, currently the question has been restricted to married or in union women (15-49 years) who are using contraception. For the DHS7 and later rounds, the question will be extended to all married or in union women, whether they are using family planning or not.

- Currently there is no DHS that includes the question on decision-making for reproductive health care: “Who usually makes decisions about reproductive health care for yourself/ in line with the aspiration of the indicator 5.6.1. However, DHS in 63 countries include the question “Who usually makes decisions about HEALTH care for yourself?” which is asked to women who are married or in union.

Currently, a total of 45 countries have at least one survey with data on all the 3 questions above which are necessary for calculating Indicator 5.6.1. The 45 countries with data are distributed as follows:

- Central Asia and Southern Asia (3)
- Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia (1)
- Northern America and Europe (2)
- Western Asia and Northern Africa (2)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (4)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (33)
Several other countries have only one or two of the three questions needed to calculate Indicator 5.6.1. UNFPA will engage with MICS, other organizations and agencies to incorporate the relevant questions in other national surveys with a view to covering all countries on a global scale.

**Time series:**
Currently data comes from the DHS which have three to five-year cycles.

**Calendar**

**Data collection:**
As per DHS, MICS and national survey cycles

**Data release:**
On-going as new data becomes available

**Data providers**

Agencies responsible for the DHS at national level.

**Data compilers**

UNFPA

**References**

**URL:**
Not available.

**References:**
Not available.

**Related indicators**

Indicator 5.6.2