

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

Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

[Indicator 5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex](#)

Institutional Information

Organization(s):

UN Women, World Bank Group, OECD Development Centre

Concepts and definitions

Definitions:

Indicator 5.1.1 measures Government efforts to put in place legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality.

The indicator is based on an assessment of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality. The assessment is carried out by national counterparts, including National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and/or National Women's Machinery (NWMs), and legal practitioners/researchers on gender equality, using a questionnaire comprising 45 yes/no questions under four areas of law: (i) overarching legal frameworks and public life; (ii) violence against women; (iii) employment and economic benefits; and (iv) marriage and family¹. The areas of law and questions are drawn from the international legal and policy framework on gender equality, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which has 189 States parties, and the Beijing Platform for Action. As such, no new internationally agreed standard on equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex was needed. The primary sources of information relevant for indicator 5.1.1 are legislation and policy/action plans.

The 45 questions in the questionnaire are:

Area 1: Overarching legal frameworks and public life

Promote

1. If customary law is a valid source of law under the constitution, is it invalid if it violates constitutional provisions on equality or nondiscrimination?
2. If personal law is a valid source of law under the constitution, is it invalid if it violates constitutional provisions on equality or nondiscrimination?

¹ The areas of law were agreed at the expert workshop, held on 14 and 15 June 2016, to discuss the methodological development of SDG indicator 5.1.1.

3. Is there a discrimination law that prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination against women?
4. Do women and men enjoy equal rights and access to hold public and political office (legislature, executive, judiciary)?
5. Are there quotas for women (reserved seats) in national parliament?
6. Are there quotas for women in candidate lists for national parliament?
7. Do women and men have equal rights to confer citizenship to their spouses and their children?

Enforce and monitor

1. Does the law establish a specialized independent body tasked with receiving complaints of discrimination based on gender (e.g., national human rights institution, women's commission, ombudsperson)?
2. Is legal aid mandated in criminal matters?
3. Is legal aid mandated in civil/family matters?
4. Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?
5. Are there laws that explicitly require the production and/or dissemination of gender statistics?
6. Are there sanctions for noncompliance with mandated quotas for women or incentives to include women on candidate lists for national parliamentary elections?

Area 2: Violence against women

Promote

1. Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes physical violence?
2. Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes sexual violence?
3. Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes psychological/emotional violence?
4. Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes financial/economic violence?
5. Have provisions exempting perpetrators from facing charges for rape if the perpetrator marries the victim after the crime been removed, or never existed in legislation?

6. Have provisions reducing penalties in cases of so called honour crimes been removed, or never existed in legislation?
7. Are laws on rape based on lack of consent, without requiring proof of physical force or penetration?
8. Does legislation explicitly criminalize marital rape
9. Is there legislation that specifically addresses sexual harassment?

Enforce and monitor

1. Are there budgetary commitments provided for by government entities for the implementation of legislation addressing violence against women by creating an obligation on government to provide budget or allocation of funding for the implementation of relevant programmes or activities?
2. Are there budgetary commitments provided for by government entities for the implementation of legislation addressing violence against women by allocating a specific budget, funding and/or incentives to support non-governmental organizations for activities to address violence against women?
3. Is there is a national action plan or policy to address violence against women that is overseen by a national mechanism with the mandate to monitor and review implementation?
4. Is there is a national action plan or policy to address violence against women that includes specific targets and benchmarks?

Area 3: Employment and economic benefits

Promote

1. Does the law mandate nondiscrimination on the basis of gender in employment?
2. Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?
3. Does the law allow women to do the same jobs as men?
4. Does the law allow women to work the same night hours as men?
5. Does the law provide for maternity or parental leave available to mothers in accordance with the ILO standards?
6. Does the law provide for paid paternity or parental leave available to fathers or partners?

Enforce and monitor

1. Is there a public entity that can receive complaints on gender discrimination in employment?
2. Is childcare publicly provided or subsidized?

Area 4: Marriage and family

Promote

1. Is 18 the minimum age of marriage, with no legal exceptions, for both women and men?
2. Do women and men have equal rights to enter marriage (i.e. consent) and initiate divorce?
3. Do women and men have equal rights to be legal guardian of their children during and after marriage?
4. Do women and men have equal rights to legal capacity, including to be recognized as head of household or head of family?
5. Do women and men have equal rights to legal capacity, including to choose where to live?
6. Do women and men have equal rights to legal capacity, including to choose a profession?
7. Do women and men have equal rights to legal capacity, including to obtain an identity card?
8. Do women and men have equal rights to legal capacity, including to apply for passports?
9. Do women and men have equal rights to own, access and control marital property including upon divorce?

Enforce and monitor

1. Is marriage under the legal age void or voidable?
2. Are there dedicated and specialized family courts?

Rationale:

Equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex are core principles under the international legal and policy framework, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which has 189 States parties, and the Beijing Platform for Action. This framework sets out the commitments of States to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality, including in the area of legal frameworks.

In the Beijing Platform for Action, States pledged to revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex. The five-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 5) established 2005 as the target date for the repeal of laws that discriminate against women. This deadline has come and gone. While there has been progress in reforming laws to promote gender equality, discrimination against women in the law continues in many countries. Even where legal reforms have taken place, gaps in implementation persist.

Removing discriminatory laws and putting in place legal frameworks that advance gender equality are prerequisites to ending discrimination against women and achieving gender equality (Goal 5, Target 5.1). Indicator 5.1.1 will be crucial in accelerating progress on the implementation of SDG 5 and all other gender-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Concepts:

Article 1 of CEDAW provides a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women covering direct and indirect discrimination and article 2 sets out general obligations for States, in particular on required legal frameworks, to eliminate discrimination against women. Article 1 of CEDAW states: "... the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field".

The term "legal frameworks" is defined broadly to encompass laws, mechanisms and policies/plans to 'promote, enforce and monitor' gender equality.

Legal frameworks that "promote" are those that establish women's equal rights with men and enshrine non-discrimination on the basis of sex. Legal frameworks that "enforce and monitor" are directed to the realization of equality and non-discrimination and implementation of laws, such as policies/plans, establishment of enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, and allocation of financial resources.

Comments and limitations:

To avoid duplication, the indicator does not cover areas of law that are addressed under 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', and indicator 5.6.2, 'Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education'. Indicator 5.1.1 complements these other indicators.

Methodology

Scoring:

The indicator is based on an assessment of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality using a questionnaire comprising 45 Yes/No questions under four areas of law drawn from the international legal and policy framework on gender equality, in particular CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.

The answers to the questions are coded with simple “Yes/No” answers with “1” for “Yes” and “0” for “No”. For questions 1 and 2 only, they may be scored “N/A” in which case they are not included as part of the overall score calculation for the area.²

The scoring methodology is the unweighted average of the questions under each area of law calculated by: $A_i = \frac{q_1 + \dots + q_{m_i}}{m_i}$.

Where A_i refers the area of law i ; m_i refers to the total number of questions under the area of law i ;³ $q_1 + \dots + q_{m_i}$ refers to the sum of the coded questions under the area of law and where $q_i = "1"$ if the answer is “Yes” and $q_i = "0"$ if the answer is “No”.

Results of the four areas are reported as percentages as a dashboard: $\langle A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4 \rangle$. The score for each area (a number between 0 and 100) therefore represents the percentage of achievement of that country in that area, with 100 being best practice met on all questions in the area.

The choice of presenting all four area scores without further aggregation is the result of adopting the posture that high values in one area in a given country need not compensate in any way the country having low values in some other area, and that a comprehensive examination of the value of those four numbers for each country is potentially more informative than trying to summarize all four numbers into a single index.

Disaggregation:

Four areas of law: (i) overarching legal frameworks and public life; (ii) violence against women; (iii) employment and economic benefits; and (iv) marriage and family.

Treatment of missing values:

- At country level: Not imputed.
- At regional and global levels: Not imputed.

Regional aggregates:

² For questions 1 and 2, the methodology does not attribute a score (positive or negative) to the existence of customary or personal law, but does score whether they are subject to constitutional principles of equality or nondiscrimination. Therefore, in countries where customary or personal law does not apply, these questions are scored as “N/A” and are not included as part of the overall score calculation for the area ‘overarching legal frameworks and public life’.

³ If a question is coded as “N/A”, it will not be counted in the total number of questions in an area of the law.

The regional and global aggregate calculations will be the unweighted average of the scores of each country in that region (or globally), per area of law.

Sources of discrepancies:

There should be no discrepancies. Data is collected through validated surveys.

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

- Methodology used by countries for the compilation of the data at the national level: The questionnaires provided to countries include guidance, definitions and instructions.
- International recommendations and guidelines: The areas of law and questions are drawn from the international legal and policy framework on gender equality, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which has 189 States parties, (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/CEDAWIndex.aspx>), and the Beijing Platform for Action (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/world-conferences-on-women>). The attached Methodological Note sets out the international standards supporting the areas of law and questions and also attaches the background paper for the expert workshop which provides a useful summary of the international legal and policy framework on equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex and the relevance for SDG indicator 5.1.1.

Quality assurance:

The assessment of laws is initially carried out by national counterparts, and legal practitioners and researchers on gender equality. The data is checked and verified by the World Bank Group, OECD Development Centre, and UN Women. The data is then sent to the designated focal points/country counterparts to review and validate. Please refer to the next section on Data sources for more details.

Data sources

Description:

The data for the indicator are derived from an assessment of legal frameworks using primary sources/official government documents, in particular laws, policies/action plans. The assessment is carried out by national counterparts, including National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and/or National Women's Machinery (NWMs), and legal practitioners/researchers on gender equality, using a questionnaire comprising 45 yes/no questions under four areas of law: (i) overarching legal frameworks and public life; (ii) violence against women; (iii) employment and economic benefits; and (iv) marriage and family. The areas of law and questions are drawn from the international legal and policy framework on gender equality, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which has 189 States parties, and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Collection process:

Countries are asked to designate a focal point to undertake the coordination at the country level necessary for the collection and validation of the data. To date, 38 countries have designated focal points and 27 questionnaires have been completed by national counterparts. Most designated focal points are within the NWMs, a number are within the NSOs and some are within both the NWMs and the NSOs. After verification,⁴ the data with relevant laws, policies and other sources included, is sent to the designated focal points/country counterparts to review and validate. Final answers are arrived at after the process of validation with country counterparts.

Data availability

Pilot data collection and validation was carried out for 14 countries.⁵

Calendar

Data collection:

Data will be compiled every two years starting in 2018.

Data release:

First quarter 2019.

Data providers

National counterparts, including National Statistical Offices and National Women's Machinery.

Data compilers

The World Bank Group, the OECD Development Centre, UN Women.

References

World Bank Group: <http://wbi.worldbank.org/>.

OECD Development Centre: <http://www.genderindex.org/>.

UN Women: data.unwomen.org.

⁴ Verification includes information (eg national legal sources) compiled under World Bank Group and OECD Development Centre procedures by legal practitioners/researchers on gender equality. The World Bank Group's Women, Business and the Law and the OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions and Gender Index are two well-known global databases on national legal frameworks that promote gender equality which have been collecting data in this area for 10 and 9 years respectively.

⁵ Validation processes are underway in 12 countries where data has been collected. If a decision is reached by the IAEG-SDGs to reclassify Indicator 5.1.1 to Tier II, validation processes will take place for the other 74 countries where data has been collected.

Related Indicators

There are other legal SDGs indicators:

- 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'; and
- Indicator 5.6.2, 'Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education'.

To avoid duplication, indicator 5.1.1 does not cover areas of law that are addressed under indicators 5.a.2 and 5.6.2. Indicator 5.1.1 complements these other indicators.

Legal frameworks that advance gender equality generally relate to all of Goal 5 as well as other Goals since gender equality is central to the achievement of all SDGs.