

Goal 5

Target number: 5.6

Indicator Number and Name: 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

Agency: UNFPA

Has work for the development of this indicator begun? Yes

Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?

UNFPA is leading this work in partnership with UN Women and WHO. The work has been informed by extensive involvement of relevant stakeholders, including from civil society, academia and the UN. UN involvement, has included the participation of Vinod Mishra from UNDESA. In January 2016, UNFPA and WHO hosted an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to inform the parameters and further development of the survey, following which Columbia University was hired to develop a methodological proposal, including through a review of existing data and standards as applied by UN DESA¹ and WHO.²

A detailed paper was put forward by Columbia University, including proposed survey questions. Columbia University tested the proposed survey questions through desk research on ten countries: Kenya, Nepal, India, Lebanon, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina, Colombia, France and Great Britain. Based on the results of this testing, the survey was further refined and streamlined. Two EGM's were held later in 2016 to further review, refine and validate the proposed methodology: in August 2016 and in November 2016. At each one of these EGM's there was a representative of a national statistics office from Brazil. The national statistics office of Mexico was also invited.

The 2016 November EGM also discussed the proposed change in the formulation of the indicator- specifically the inclusion of men. It concluded that the changes could be accommodated in the proposed methodology.

The indicator methodology was also presented to the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Laws and in Practice, at its annual meeting in January 2017.

What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?

In 2015, National Statistics Offices were consulted through regional UNFPA- sponsored meetings on the SDG indicator framework. UNFPA organised Regional Workshops on SDG indicators of priority to UNFPA and related capacity development, from September to November 2016; review of 5.6.1 and 5.6.2 indicator development were included as agenda items within these meetings. The regional workshops participants included SDG focal points from National Statistics Offices, and related

¹ Population Division: World Fertility 2015 and other databases. For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/fertility/>

² WHO Global Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Policy Indicator Surveys (2009-10, 2011-12 and 2013-14) undertaken by Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health; WHO: <http://goo.gl/J2ODaJ>

ministries. Regional workshops were held in the following 6 regions with numbers of represented countries in parenthesis:
Latin America and the Caribbean (22 countries), and East and Southern Africa (18 countries); Asia Pacific (16 countries), and Arab States (11 countries); Eastern Europe and Central Asia (18 countries).

Moreover, as noted above, at each one of the Expert Group Meetings held on 5.6.2 there was a representative from the national statistics office in Brazil.

Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator

Target 5.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seeks to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in accordance with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The target is measured by two indicators: indicator 5.6.1 measuring women's decision-making with regards to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); and indicator 5.6.2, which measures the 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, disaggregated by sex.³

The proposed methodology for SDG target 5.6.2 consists of a self-reporting by governments through a survey that measures the number of states with national laws and regulations (including their interpretation by courts) that guarantee access for men and women aged 15 years and older to the different components of sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.

The survey aims to assess both *legal barriers* (existence of restrictive and negative laws and regulations) and *enablers* (existence of positive laws and regulations). In regards to legal barriers, restrictions by marital status, third party authorization and age are specially addressed.

Cross cutting considerations that are reflected in the survey are the need to assess if these laws and regulations are age appropriate, non-discriminatory (with a focus on gender discrimination) and human rights based.

It is important to note that this indicator is measuring exclusively legal frameworks and barriers and does not measure implementation of such laws. Hence the data must be assessed in complementarity with 5.6.1 and other indicators under Goal 3 (health) and 5. This procedure was applied for the ICPD+20 review survey.

The process of developing the indicator has included the following:

- Agreement on the parameters of the methodology and ensuring relevance to the ambitions and aspirations of the Goal and the Target through an Expert Group Meeting organised in January 2016

³ The methodology was designed around the original formulation of the indicator "Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education". With the change in formulation at the IAEG meeting of November 2016, an Expert Group Meeting was held to review implications on the methodology. The conclusion from the meeting was that the changes could be accommodated in the existing methodology, with a few small changes to include the 'men' dimension; the dimensions of "full" and "equal" were found to be addressed in the existing methodology through the 5 dimensions of sexual and reproductive health care and the cross cutting focus on discrimination throughout the survey.

- Partnership with Columbia University in 2016 to develop a detailed paper, including proposal for survey questions, review of existing sources and proposal on process and baseline
- Test (through desk research) the proposed survey on 10 countries to ensure robustness of survey and methodology, and propose a refined methodology
- Review proposed survey at August 2016 EGM
- Drawing on the feedback from the August EGM, further adjustment of the survey and methodology and reduction of the survey questions from over 180 to 45,
- November EGM- further technical review of the survey methodology and tool to focus on 4 main SRH domains, in line with the ICPD Programme of Action:
 - pregnancy & childbirth /
 - contraception /
 - comprehensive sexuality education & information /
 - sexual health & well-being
- Presentation of methodology to the UN Working Group on issues of Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice and feedback was incorporated.
- Piloting of the methodology and tool in 6 selected countries (Oct-Dec 2017)

Next Steps:

- Analysis of pilot test results (Dec 2017- Jan 2018)
- Finalization of survey tool, methodology and scoring formula based on results of pilot tests (Jan 2018)
- Presentation of final methodology to the IAEG-SDG, and request for Tier re-classification (March 2018)
- Design of database for the indicator
- Data collection to start in 2018.

Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.

There are no new international standards to be approved.

When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed?

January 2018

Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator?

Yes

If yes, please describe:

Data for a number of components of the survey are already being collected. For example the UN Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development, (led by the Population Division of DESA), includes a Module on “Fertility, Family Planning and Reproductive Health”

How do you plan to collect the data?

Send questionnaire(s) to countries- Coordinated through UNFPA Country Offices where relevant.

If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.

Data for all components of the indicator will come from the same survey, and the indicator will be estimated based on the different components.

With what frequency is data expected to be collected?

2-3 Years.

Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator?

Yes

If yes, please briefly describe:

Information provided by States to the survey will be further validated and analyzed by a national “validation committee”. The committee would include representatives from UN Country teams and UN agencies such as WHO, UNFPA and UN Women who also compile country specific information on legal and regulatory developments on issues pertaining to their respective mandates; civil society groups, who are best placed to have access to information about the legal frameworks guaranteeing women and men’s access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, information and services and the hierarchy of relevant laws and regulations; national statistics offices; and government partners.

The concluding observations and recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms, (treaty bodies, special procedures, Universal Periodic Review) will also provide valuable information on gaps and contradictory laws and regulations.

If you have any additional comments that you believe would be helpful to IAEG-SDG members in analysing the work plan and methodological development of the indicator, please provide them here:

(as of December 2017)