

The World's Women 2010: Press Release #2

World's Women 2010 Shows Progress in the Availability of Gender Statistics – Yet Also Points to Still-Existing Lack of Relevant, Regular, Consistent and Reliable Statistical Measures on the Status of Women

(New York, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, 20 October 2010) – *The World's Women 2010* has benefited from an increase in the availability of gender statistics in the last decade. The majority of countries are now able to produce basic sex-disaggregated statistics on population, enrolment, employment and parliamentary representation, for instance.

The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics, a one-of-a-kind compilation of the latest data documenting progress for women worldwide, is released today in conjunction with the first-ever World Statistics Day. As per United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/267 of 3 June 2010, the Day was designated “under the general theme celebrating the many achievements of official statistics and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism.”

The World's Women 2010 illustrates significant improvements of Official Statistics in providing data that reflect the status of women worldwide. Gender statistics in some newer areas are notably becoming available — statistics on child labour are now collected by a larger number of countries. Similarly, surveys on time use and violence against women are increasingly being conducted in both developed and developing countries.

However, improvements are still needed in other areas. The preparation of *The World's Women 2010* was hampered by the fact that adequate and comparative statistics in certain domains are not routinely available for many countries. This is certainly the case with poverty and environment statistics – but it also applies to international migration statistics, for example.

Even the statistics that are available are often not comparable as concepts, definitions and methods vary from country to country. In many cases, data are also lacking in detail. For example, to properly understand and develop policies to rectify violence against women, statistics need to provide more information than the total number of women subjected to violence. They should also include characteristics such as age, marital status, education, ethnicity and/or religion, to name a few. Statistics like these are available in *The World's Women 2010* for approximately fifty countries.

Additionally, the quality of data varies across countries. Shortcomings are often encountered in data related to maternal mortality, causes of death, vocational education, access to and use of information and communication technologies, the informal sector and informal employment. The same is true of data on occupations, wages, unemployment and underemployment, decision makers in government and the private sector, and household poverty.





In short, increasing the capacity to produce reliable, accurate and timely statistics, in particular gender statistics, remains a formidable challenge for many countries, the report concludes.

For further information or to arrange interviews, contact Francois Coutu, Public Information Officer, UN Statistics Division, Tel: +1-212-963-2631, Email: coutu@un.org. After embargo time, the report will be posted online on <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010pub.htm> .