

A Framework and Indicators for Gender Equality and Health in the Americas

*Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) /
Regional Office for the Americas, World Health Organization*

Abstract

PAHO Strategic Plan 2014-2019 includes gender equality as a cross cutting theme, aligned with WHO Strategic Plan. Passed in 2005, PAHO's Gender Equality Policy includes a line of action aimed at promoting the generation of data on gender and health inequalities. The SDGs and PAHO's 2014 resolution on the Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage has given new impetus to this line of action, and, within this context, PAHO is currently consolidating and validating a core set of gender and health indicators, which PAHO will promote with Member States for regular collection, analysis and utilization in decision making. The aim of these indicators is to promote regional harmonization and update the basic criteria for conceptualizing gender and health indicators across the spectrum of universal health (as consonant with the capacity of health systems to respond to inequities and inequalities), and to provide guidelines for measuring and monitoring differences in health status and access associated with gender-relevant socioeconomic and cultural inequalities.

Key areas covered have been established on the basis of a review of relevant existing frameworks for gender indicators as well as indicators that were already in development for the SDGs. Thus, the indicator domains include **Health Status; Social Determinants of Health; Health Systems Performance; Governance and Sustainable Development**. Across all indicators, an intersectional approach is being applied, which will highlight how gender inequalities intersect with other aspects of equality, equity (including, for example, ethnicity) and rights. One key indicator is also being selected to be proposed to Gender Equality Mechanisms in the region for inclusion in the Regional Observatory on Gender Equality of Latin America and the Caribbean, thereby promoting intersectoral attention to gender and health. Currently being considered as this key indicator is women and men's out of pocket expenditure on health, the reduction of which is a central component of Universal Health, as reflected amongst SDG 3 targets. Thus, this work is a specific attempt to reinforce the complementarity of SDG 3 and SDG 5, and ensure that the indicators tracked by countries also reflect this synergy and contribute to the tackling of the underlying causes of gender inequalities in health.