Measuring women’s participation in local government

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Sonia Palmieri
Policy Specialist, Political Participation
sonia.palmieri@unwomen.org
Overview

1. Data collection ‘mandates’
   • Where are the data gaps

2. The need for data on local government
   • Lessons learned from MDGs
   • Moving forward to the SDGs

3. Stock take: current information on women’s participation at the local level
   • Challenges in data collection and comparative analysis

4. UN Women’s work so far
   • Proposed methodology
   • Data sources
Data collection ‘mandates’

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
• Indicator 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
  • Data collected regularly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
• 26 global indicators to monitor implementation include:
  • 12a Women’s political participation in parliaments and ministerial positions
  • 12b Women’s political participation as voters and candidates
  • 16 Level of women’s participation in the justice and security sector
• However, current data availability and quality vary widely
Data gaps

Gender Statistics: 52 minimum indicators

- Quantitative indicators for public life and decision making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Indicator name</th>
<th>BPFA¹</th>
<th>MDG²</th>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>Women’s share of government ministerial positions</td>
<td>G.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>IPU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament</td>
<td>G.1</td>
<td>Goal 3</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>IPU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Women’s share of managerial positions</td>
<td>F.1, F.5, G.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ILO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Share of female police officers</td>
<td>I.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>UNODC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Share of female judges</td>
<td>I.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>UNODC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Indicators on police and judges are “conceptually clear, with an agreed international definition, but not yet regularly produced by countries”

- Indicators **not** included in the ‘Set of 52’:
  - Participation and leadership in local government
  - Voter turnout and voter registration
  - Proportion of candidates for election (national & sub-national)
  - Participation and leadership in trade unions and collective movements
  - Participation and leadership of corporate boards
  - Incidence of violence against women in politics and in elections
Why local government?

Lessons learned from the MDGs:
1) “The global development agenda needs to be rooted in the local development agenda”
   • MDGs “best achieved” when local government was engaged
   • inter-governmental (national-local) relationships effective

2) Accountability on the implementation of goals requires:
   • a “data revolution”
   • inclusive and genuine participation by women
   • strengthened institutions, effective local governance

Source: UNDG. Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Opportunities at the National and Local Levels, Available at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/dialogues2015>
Post-2015

Women’s participation at the local level needs to be measured for at least two of the proposed SDGs:

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

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels:
  • 16.6 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
  • 16.7 ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
Women as councilors and mayors

Comparative challenges

1) Significant diversity in local governance structures:
   • Each country has its own system of local government, sometimes with internally disparate types and forms of local councils, bodies and executive structures

2) The wide range of governance structures has been difficult to capture with comparable data:
   • There is no baseline data on women elected or appointed to local government across all countries at one point in time.
   • There is no central repository of data to track progress.
Methodology

Research questions
1) Is there enough commonality between local governance structures in all countries for a global community of practice to agree and track a common measurement or standard on women in local government?

2) What kinds of quantitative and qualitative data do we need to better understand of women’s access to, and participation in, local governance institutions, processes and leadership positions?

Methods
• Categorise the number and type of governance tiers by country and region;

• Using existing data on women in sub-national governments, identify gaps in data collection at the sub-national level and identify improvements;

• Discuss data gaps and possible data collection processes with partners;

• Identify opportunities to establish a global repository.
What we know so far

• Of the distinguishable ‘tiers’ of local government:
  – The **most common tier** is **the municipal level**
    • An elected mayor presides over a separate municipal council.
  – The **second most common tier** is **the district level**
    • Significant variety in functions and modes of election/appointment
  – A **third tier** - **local communities, parishes** - tends to be prevalent in countries with large populations
    • E.g. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
Data sources

*Country government websites*

*UN regional commissions* data on women’s participation in local governments

*United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) country profiles*

*Member States’* inputs to the SG Report on the implementation of GA Resolution 66/130 on women and political participation

*CEDAW country reports* - a total of 122 countries have reported some information on women’s representation at local level

*The UN Statistics Division* report, *The World’s Women*. The 2010 edition included information on women mayors and women councilors for 72 and 81 countries respectively.
Let’s continue this conversation ...

Thank you for your attention