

Minimum Set of Gender Indicators

Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

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IAEG-GS advisory group on database

- The initial focus of the advisory group on global gender statistics and indicators database was the development of an international database.
- In 2009, the focus shifted toward identifying a list of key gender indicators.
- The 2011 UN statistical commission also requested the IAEG-GS to:
 - *Establish a minimum set of gender indicators for international compilation and dissemination to facilitate global comparisons of the state of gender statistics and to evaluate the situation of women and men and the capacity of countries in this regard (EN/CN.3/2011/3, Para 50c).*

Work of the Sub-group on Gender Indicators

- In 2011, the subgroup developed the proposed minimum set of indicators for gender statistics.
 - *Members:* Philippines, Ghana, Canada, US, Zimbabwe, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE, ECA, ECLAC, World Bank, UN Population Division and UNSD

Establishment of the minimum set

- The minimum set is at the **International** level
 - Regional and national contexts are being developed by regional and national entities and are not part of this exercise.
- The set is meant to include the key indicators for statistics on gender equality and women's empowerment, representing global gender issues and concerns.
- It forms the basis for regional and national exercises.

Domains

- **Gender indicators:**
 - I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources
 - II. Education
 - III. Health and related services
 - IV. Public life and decision-making
 - V. Human rights of women and the girl child
- **Gender indicators related to national norms:**
 - I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources
 - IV. Public life and decision-making
 - V. Human rights of women and the girl child

Criteria

Underlying assumption: selected indicators should be broadly consistent with other global lists and avoid imposing an unnecessary burden on national statistical systems, national Government agencies and other partners.

Three criteria:

1. Address relevant issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment
2. Be conceptually clear, easy to interpret and have an agreed international definition
3. Be regularly produced by countries with sufficient coverage to allow tracking progress over time.

Tier structure

- *Tier 1* includes indicators that meet all the criteria.
- *Tier 2* includes indicators that meet criteria 1 and 2.
- *Tier 3* includes indicators that meet criterion 1.

Next steps

- Areas still to be addressed:
 - Social norms and attitudes and stereotyping of women;
 - Migration;
 - Institutional mechanisms;
 - and critical areas, such as strategic objectives E, on women and armed conflict (already covered in part by indicators for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)), J, on women and the media, and K, on women and the environment of Beijing Platform.
 - Indicators will be disaggregated, when possible, to address inequalities based on geographical area, rural/urban, income level, ethnicity, disabilities.

Next steps

- International data compilation of indicators in tier 1 - establish a mechanism for the international agencies to regularly provide data and metadata to the Statistics Division, for data repository.
- Steps:
 - UNSD will design an online database on Gender Statistics
 - IAEG will identify the responsible agencies for tier 1 indicators
 - The database on GS will be updated regularly (What is the frequency of updating)
 - The responsible agencies will provide metadata (format for submitting the metadata)
 - Based on the metadata provided, develop a handbook on how to compile agreed indicators contained in the minimum set of gender indicators? Financial and human resources requirements
 - Develop a wiki application for the handbook?

Next steps

- Promoting capacity-building activities to expand the data coverage of indicators in tier 2.
- Undertaking methodological work on indicators in tier 3 and emerging issues (including through EDGE).

Harmonization of Gender Indicators

Minimum set indicators under V. **Human rights of women and girl children** are inconsistent with the list of indicator proposed by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women, which were adopted by the Statistical Commission in 2009.

- Min Set – 48. Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner

FOC Core Set – 5. Total and age specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by intimate partner in the last 12 months (frequency)

- Min Set – 49. Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by persons other than an intimate partner

FOC Core Set – 1. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months (severity/perpetrator/frequency)

FOC Core Set – 3. Total and age specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months (severity/perpetrator/frequency)

Harmonization of indicators

- Min Set – 50. Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (for relevant countries only) Min Set – 51. Percentage of women 20-24 years old who were married or in union before age 18

FOC did not recommend these as "Core" indicators, but rather as "additional" indicators.

Indicator 50 should be measured only when relevant. The age at first marriage differs from country to country and FOC concluded that there is a lack of universally accepted threshold that would enable statistical comparability and consistency. At the country level however, it will be up to the country to decide if this needs to be measured/monitored or not.