

*Evidence and Data for SDG 5:  
Achieve Gender Equality and Empower of  
All Women and Girls –  
The role of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicator*

Prepared by

the Inter-agency and  
Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)  
for the Expert Group Meeting on the  
Indicator Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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Achieve Gender Equality and Empower of All Women and Girls –  
The role of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators**

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Expert Group Meeting on the Indicator Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda  
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**Introduction**

In 2014, the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed to include in its Outcome Document a stand-alone Goal (Goal 5) on “*Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls*”, reaffirming that gender equality and women’s empowerment continues to be at the forefront of global policy concerns. Gender equality, recognized as a crosscutting issue, as well as the importance of improving the availability of and access to data and statistics disaggregated by sex were also incorporated in other goals.<sup>2</sup>

It is in this context, that the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) is presenting this note to the *Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the Indicator Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda* to update the meeting on the most recent developments in the area of gender statistics and to ensure the meeting will give due consideration to the work undertaken by the IAEG-GS, in particular in identifying a Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, agreed by the UN Statistical Commission and compiled online by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

**The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) and the Global Programme on Gender Statistics**

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) is a group of subject-matter experts from national and international statistical offices, gender policy experts and other stakeholders, established in 2006 and in charge of guiding and coordinating the *Global Gender Statistics Programme*<sup>3</sup>, mandated by the UN Statistical Commission. The Programme focuses on:

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared and presented by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)

<sup>2</sup> Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals, accessed at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

<sup>3</sup> Visit <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html> for additional information

- improving coherence among existing initiatives on gender statistics through international coordination
- developing and promoting methodological guidelines in existing domains as well as in emerging areas of gender concern
- strengthening national statistical and technical capacity for the production, dissemination and use of gender relevant data
- facilitating access to gender relevant data and metadata through a newly developed data portal.

Of particular importance to the work of the IAEG-GS is the fact that the UN Statistical Commission in February 2013 “*agreed to use a **minimum set of gender indicators***”, identified and proposed by the IAEG-GS, “*as a basic set for international compilation and national data collection*”.

### **The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators**

In 2011, following the request of the United Nations Statistical Commission (decision 42/102), the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) through its Advisory Group on Global Gender Statistics and Indicators Database identified a minimum set of gender indicators composed of 52 quantitative indicators covering the following areas: (1) economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources; (2) education; (3) health and related services; (4) public life and decision-making; and (5) human rights of women and girl children. The group of experts from national and international statistical agencies also identified 11 qualitative indicators to monitor the existence of selected national norms and laws on gender equality in various areas (see annex I for list of gender indicators included in the Minimum Set).

The selection of the 52 quantitative indicators was guided by the primary criterion that indicators should address key policy concerns as identified in the Beijing Platform for Action and other more recent international commitments. Additionally, the choice of indicators for the minimum set was guided by the principles that an indicator should:

- a) Address relevant issues related to gender equality and/or women’s empowerment;
- b) Be conceptually clear, easy to interpret and have an agreed international definition;

- c) Have been regularly produced by countries, with sufficient coverage to allow regional or national comparisons and tracking of progress over time.

Finally, the choice of indicators took into account existing lists of indicators agreed at the international level.

Based on the three principles listed above, the 52 quantitative and 11 qualitative indicators were grouped into three tiers as follows:

Tier I. Indicators conceptually clear, with an agreed international definition and regularly produced by countries.

Tier II. Indicators conceptually clear, with an agreed international definition, but not yet regularly produced by countries.

Tier III. Indicators for which international standards need still to be developed and not regularly produced by countries.

The minimum set of gender indicators identified by IAEG-GS was presented to the UN Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2013/10) at its forty-fourth session in 2013. The Commission agreed (decision 44/109) to use the set as a guide for national production and international compilation of gender statistics.

In order to disseminate online the minimum set of gender indicators, the Statistics Division is maintaining since March 2014 a dedicated platform at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html>. The portal is populated with country level data compiled by international specialized agencies. Before data and corresponding metadata are forwarded to the Statistics Division, specialized agencies adjust the data to ensure international comparability for certain series, whereas for others, agencies develop their own estimates based on country data. The portal publishes data and the corresponding detailed metadata with explanations on the sources and methods used by the specialized agencies responsible for the international compilation of data produced by countries in a specific field.

## **Data to monitor gender equality: availability, limitations, challenges and ongoing work**

The minimum set provides a good basis for monitoring gender equality and women's empowerment. However, indicators in Tiers II and III still present significant statistical gaps in terms of data availability, international comparability or even existence of statistical standards. Additionally, the minimum set does not address all gender issues. For instance, the set is not currently covering: women's participation in local governments; environment and climate change; women and armed conflicts; food security and intra-household resources allocation.

Currently 36 indicators, most of them in tier I, which cover traditional areas such as education, employment and health, are disseminated through the UNSD portal (see annex III for data availability as of December 2014). The Advisory Group on Emerging Issues under the IAEG-GS has agreed to disseminate online selected Tier II indicators in 2015—even if data are available only for a limited number of countries.

In order to close some of the statistical gaps, methodological work to develop standards for producing statistics on emerging issues are ongoing. For example, the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project is focusing on the development and testing of methodologies to measure asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

Furthermore, many countries still lack the capacity to produce gender statistics in selected areas, including on violence against women and time use<sup>4</sup>. UNSD in collaboration with IAEG-GS members and other stakeholders organizes regularly capacity building activities to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices to produce, analyse, disseminate and use gender statistics by promoting the integration of a gender perspective into national statistical systems.

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations. 2013. *Report of the Secretary-General on Gender Statistics*, prepared for the Forty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission. E/CN.3/2013/10. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/2013-10-GenderStats-E.pdf>

## **Relationship between the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators and the SDG framework**

For most of the gender-related targets in the proposed SDG framework, at least one corresponding indicator exists in the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators which may be considered in the development of the SDG indicator (see Annex I for the full list of indicators). Annex II presents the number of countries with data-“data availability”, for the gender indicators in the Minimum Set currently disseminated online in the dedicated portal. This information could be used as an indication of country capacity in producing statistics in a given area.

The advantages of using the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for monitoring the SDGs gender-related targets are three folds: (1) there is already a wide consensus on the importance and use of the Minimum Set, in both the international and national statistical communities. Indeed, the Minimum Set has been endorsed by subject-matter experts from national and international statistical offices, gender policy experts and other stakeholders; and the UN Statistical Commission; (2) a dedicated web-platform for the Minimum Set has also been developed and launched in 2014, making data easily accessible in a single portal and available to set indicators baselines for the new monitoring development framework; (3) given that ongoing technical cooperation activities to build statistical capacity under the Global Gender Statistics Programme are aligned with priority areas covered in the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, data availability for the current set will likely increase for Tier II and Tier III indicators in the coming years.

**The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators should be used as a basis for the selection of gender-related indicators in the SDG/Post 2015 framework.**

## Annex I. Minimum set of gender indicators

<i>Indicator #</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>BPFA and MDG references</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading Agencies</i>
<b>I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources</b>				
1	Average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work by sex (Note: Separate housework and child care if possible)	C.2, F.1, H.3	2	ILO
2	Average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid domestic work combined (total work burden), by sex	F.1, H.3	2	ILO
3	Labour force participation rate for persons aged 15-24 and 15+, by sex	F.1, H.3	1	ILO
4	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex	F.2, MDG.1B	1	ILO
5	Proportion of employed who are contributing family workers, by sex	H.3, MDG.1B	1	ILO
6	Proportion of employed who are employer, by sex	F.1	1	ILO
7	Percentage of firms owned by women, by size	F.1, F.2	3	ILO
8	Percentage distribution of employed population by sector, each sex (Sectors here refer to Agriculture; Industry; Services)	F.5, H.3	1	ILO
9	Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex	F.2, H.3	2	ILO
10	Youth unemployment rate for persons aged 15-24 by sex	F.1	1	ILO
11	Proportion of population with access to credit, by sex	F.1, F.2	3	WB/FAO/OECD
12	Proportion of adult population owning land, by sex	A.1, A.2	3	WB/FAO/OECD
13	Gender gap in wages	F.1, F.5	3	ILO
14	Proportion of employed working part-time, by sex	F.5	2	ILO
15	Employment rate of persons aged 25-49 with a child under age 3 living in a household and with no children living in the household, by sex (New wording needed)	F.6	3	ILO
16	Proportion of children under age 3 in formal care	F.6	3	OECD
17	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex	F.3, MDG.8F	1	ITU
18	Proportion of individuals using a mobile-cellular telephone, by sex	F.3, MDG.8F	1	ITU
19	Proportion of households with access to mass media (radio, TV, Internet), by sex of household head	F.3	3	ITU
<b>II. Education</b>				
20	Youth literacy rate of persons (15-24 years), by sex	B.2, L.4, MDG.2	1	UIS
21	Adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education by sex	B.1, L.4, MDG.2	1	UIS
22	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education, by sex	B.1, MDG.3	1	UIS
23	Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
24	Gender parity index of the enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary education	B.1, L.4, MDG.3	1	UIS
25	Share of female science, engineering, manufacturing	B.3, B.4,	1	UIS

	and construction graduates at tertiary level	L.4		
26	Proportion of females among tertiary education teachers or professors	B.4, L.4	1	UIS
27	Adjusted net intake rate to the first grade-of primary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
28	Primary education completion rate (proxy), by sex	B.1	1	UIS
29	Gross graduation ratio from lower secondary education, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
30	Effective transition rate from primary to secondary education (general programmes), by sex	B.1	1	UIS
31	Educational attainment of the population aged 25 and older, by sex	B.1	1	UIS
<b>III. Health and related services</b>				
32	Contraceptive prevalence among women who are married or in a union, aged 15-49	C.1, C.2, MDG.5.B	1	UNPD
33	Under-five mortality rate, by sex	C.1, MDG.4	1	UNICEF/UNPD/WHO
34	Maternal mortality ratio	C.1, MDG.5.A	1	WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA
35	Antenatal care coverage	C.1, MDG.5.B	1	UNICEF
36	Proportion of births attended by skilled health professional	C.1, MDG.5.A	1	UNICEF
37	Smoking prevalence among persons aged 15 and over, by sex	C.2	1	WHO
38	Proportion of adults who are obese, by sex	C.1, C.2	1	WHO
39	Women's share of population aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	C.3, MDG.6.A	1	UNAIDS
40	Access to anti-retroviral drug, by sex	C.3, MDG.6.B, MDG 8.E	1	WHO
41	Life expectancy at age 60, by sex	C.1, C.2	1	UNPD
42	Adult mortality by cause and age groups	C.1, C.2	1	WHO
<b>IV. Public life and decision-making</b>				
43	Women's share of government ministerial positions	G.1	1	IPU
44	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	G.1, MDG.3	1	IPU
45	Women's share of managerial positions	F.1, F.5, G.1	1	ILO
46	Percentage of female police officers	I.2	2	UNODC
47	Percentage of female judges	I.2	2	UNODC
<b>V. Human rights of women and girl children</b>				
48	Proportion of ever-partnered women (aged 15-49) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months	D.1, D.2	2	WHO/UNSD
49	Proportion of women (aged 15-49) subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15	D.1, D.2	2	WHO/UNSD
50	Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (for relevant countries only)	I.2	1	UNICEF
51	Percentage of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in union before age 18	L.1, L.2	1	UNICEF
52	Adolescent birth rate	L.1, L.2, MDG 5B	1	UNPD



Indicators related to national norms, by domain

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>BPFA references</i>	<i>Tier</i>	<i>Leading agencies</i>	
<b>I. Economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources</b>				
1	Extent of country commitment to gender equality in employment	F.1, F.5	1	ILO
1a	Whether or not ratified ILO convention 100 on equal remuneration for women and men	F.1		
1b	Whether or not ratified ILO convention 111 on discrimination in employment and occupation	F.1, F.5		
2	Extent of country commitment to support reconciliation of work and family life	F.1, F.5, F.6	1	ILO
2a	Whether or not ratified ILO convention 156 on workers with family responsibilities	F.6		
2b	Whether or not ratified ILO convention 175 on part-time work	F.5		
2c	Whether or not ratified ILO convention 177 on home work	F.5		
2d	Whether or not ratified ILO convention 183 on maternity protection	F.1, F.6		
3	Length of maternity leave	F.1, F.6	1	ILO/UNSD
4	Percentage of wages paid during maternity leave	F.1, F.6	1	ILO/UNSD
<b>IV. Public life and decision-making</b>				
5	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (reserved seats and legal candidate quotas)	G.1	1	IPU
6	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (voluntary party quotas)	G.1	1	IPU
7	Existence of law on gender statistics		2	UNSD
<b>V. Human rights of women and girl children</b>				
8	Whether or not reservation to article 16 of CEDAW	I.1	1	UNW
9	Existence of laws on domestic violence	D.1	1	UNW
10	Whether or not inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls	F.1, L.1	2	UNW
11	Legal minimum age at marriage, by sex	L.1	1	UNSD

**Annex II: Data availability for gender indicators disseminated in the minimum set of gender indicators portal as of December 2014**

Indicator Num.	Indicator	Agency	Range of latest data points [from-to]	N Countries Total	Average N data points per country
3a	Labour force participation rate for persons aged 15-24, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	166	9
3b	Labour force participation rate for persons aged 15+, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	160	10
4	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	160	11
5	Proportion of employed who are contributing family workers, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	154	11
6	Proportion of employed who are employers, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	145	11
8a	Percentage distribution of employed population in agricultural sector, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	158	12
8b	Percentage distribution of employed population in industrial sector, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	158	12
8c	Percentage distribution of employed population in service sector, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	158	12
10	Youth unemployment rate for persons aged 15-24, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	144	10
14	Proportion of employed working part-time, by sex	ILO	1990-2012	60	15
17	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex	ITU	2002-2012	74	5
18	Proportion of individuals using mobile/cellular telephones, by sex	ITU	2003-2011	60	2
20	Youth literacy rate of persons (15-24 years), by sex	UIS	1990-2012	151	3
21	Adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education by sex	UIS	1990-2012	172	10
22	Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education, by sex	UIS	1990-2012	183	14
23	Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education, by sex	UIS	1990-2012	176	12
24a	Gender parity index of the gross enrolment ratio in primary education	UIS	1990-2012	185	16
24b	Gender parity index of the gross enrolment ratio in secondary education	UIS	1990-2012	183	14

Indicator Num.	Indicator	Agency	Range of latest data points [from-to]	N Countries Total	Average N data points per country
24c	Gender parity index of the gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	UIS	1990-2012	176	12
27	Adjusted net intake rate to the first grade of primary education, by sex	UIS	1990-2012	174	12
28	Primary education completion rate (proxy), by sex	UIS	1990-2012	168	12
29	Gross graduation ratio from lower secondary education, by sex	UIS	1990-2012	96	4
30	Effective transition rate from primary to secondary education (general programmes), by sex	UIS	1990-2012	163	9
31a	Educational attainment (primary) of the population aged 25 and older, by sex	UIS	1998-2011	101	1
31b	Educational attainment (lower secondary) of the population aged 25 and older, by sex	UIS	1998-2011	116	1
31c	Educational attainment (upper secondary) of the population aged 25 and older, by sex	UIS	1998-2011	120	1
31d	Educational attainment (post-secondary) of the population aged 25 and older, by sex	UIS	1998-2011	93	1
31e	Educational attainment (tertiary) of the population aged 25 and older, by sex	UIS	1998-2011	120	1
32	Contraceptive prevalence among women who are married or in a union, aged 15-49	UNPD	1990-2012	170	3
33	Under-five mortality rate, by sex	UNICEF	1990-2012	181	4
34	Maternal mortality ratio	WHO	1990-2010	179	5
35a	Antenatal care coverage, at least one visit	UNICEF	1990-2011.5	159	3
35b	Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits	UNICEF	1990-2011	110	2
36	Proportion of births attended by skilled health professional	UNICEF	1990-2012	169	5
37	Smoking prevalence among persons aged 15 and over, by sex	WHO	2006-2009	148	1
38	Proportion of adults who are obese, by sex	WHO	2008-2008	179	1
39	Women's share of population aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	UNAIDS	1990-2012	147	23
40	Access to anti-retroviral drug, by sex	WHO	2012-2012	102	1

Indicator Num.	Indicator	Agency	Range of latest data points [from-to]	N Countries Total	Average N data points per country
41	Life expectancy at age 60, by sex	UNPD	1992.5-2012.5	197	5
42a	Adult mortality 15-34 years by cause	WHO	1995-2010	108	11
42b	Adult mortality 35-59 years by cause	WHO	1995-2010	108	11
50	Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (for relevant countries only)	UNICEF	1997-2014	30	2
51	Percentage of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in a union before age 18	UNICEF	2003-2014	118	2
52	Adolescent birth rate	UNPD	1990-2011	195	11
43	Women's share of government ministerial positions	IPU	2005-2012	179	3
44	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	IPU	1990-2013	179	21
45	Women's share of managerial positions	ILO	2009-2012	60	3

#### Indicators related to national norms

1a	Whether ratified ILO convention 100 on equal remuneration for women and men	ILO		166	
1b	Whether ratified ILO convention 111 on discrimination in employment and occupation	ILO		167	
2a	Whether ratified ILO convention 156 on workers with family responsibilities	ILO		42	
2b	Whether ratified ILO convention 175 on part-time work	ILO		14	
2c	Whether ratified ILO convention 177 on home work	ILO		10	
3	Length of maternity leave	ILO		136	
4	Percentage of wages paid during maternity leave	ILO		163	
5	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (reserved seats and legal candidate quotas)	IPU		No data	
6	Presence of a gender quota for parliament (voluntary party quotas)	IPU		No data	
7	Existence of law on gender statistics	UNSD		Tier II	
8	Whether reservation to article 16 of CEDAW	UNW		181	
9	Existence of laws on domestic	UNW		181	

	violence		
10	Whether inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls	UNW	Tier II
11	Legal minimum age at marriage, by sex	UNSD	180