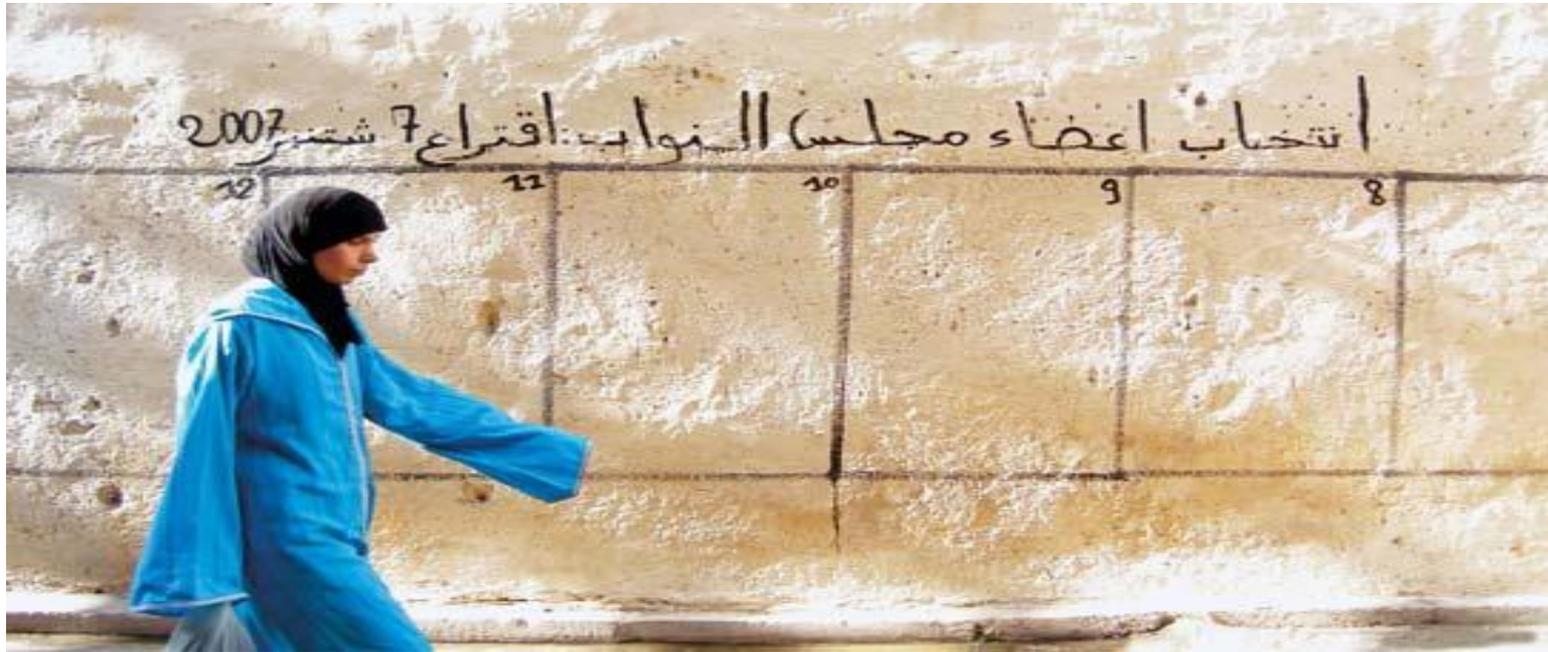


Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through the MDGs



United Nations Development Group, March 2010

Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through the MDGs

Purpose

- ▶ Review progress towards gender equality in education, employment and political representation.
 - ▶ Identify what accelerates progress, and what can be replicated or upscaled.
 - ▶ Identify gaps in the current MDG framework that need addressing, and cross-cutting policy priorities.
 - ▶ 8 key recommendations to accelerate progress.
- 

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MDG 3 to promote gender equality and empower women is an **ambitious goal**.



However, the **target** is quite limited and focuses on girls' education:

- ▶ *Target 3a: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.*

Three **indicators**:

- ▶ Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- ▶ Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
- ▶ Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments



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Gender equality and women's empowerment are goals
in their own right and central to all other goals:

- ▶ Target 1b: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
- ▶ Target 5a: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
- ▶ Target 5b: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

Gender equality and women's empowerment are goals in their own right and central to all other goals

- ▶ Halving hunger will only be achieved if we address the gender specific reasons why women and girls are more likely to be hungry than men and boys.
- ▶ Stopping and reversing the spread of HIV will only be possible if we focus on why three quarters of young people with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa are young women.
- ▶ Reducing child mortality by two thirds will only be possible if we improve the wellbeing and rights of mothers.



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YES WE CAN CHANGE THE NUMBERS....

- ▶ Financial incentives (eliminate school fees, demand-side financing, etc.)
- ▶ Positive Action (Quotas, special temporary measures, etc.)
- ▶ Greater workforce participation

BUT HOW DO WE CHANGE THE OUTCOMES?

Especially for the most excluded



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Could we have a statistical success and a goal failure?

In sub-Saharan Africa, children from the richest 20% of households have six times the chance of reaching grade nine than those in the poorest 40% of households.

- ▶ Urban children are four times more likely to be enrolled in grade nine than rural counterparts
- ▶ In Guatemala, girls from poor, indigenous households have primary net attendance rates of 60% - more than 20 points below the national average
- ▶ In Ghana, 95% of women in the richest quintile received assistance by a skilled provider during delivery, compared to 24% of women in the lowest quintile



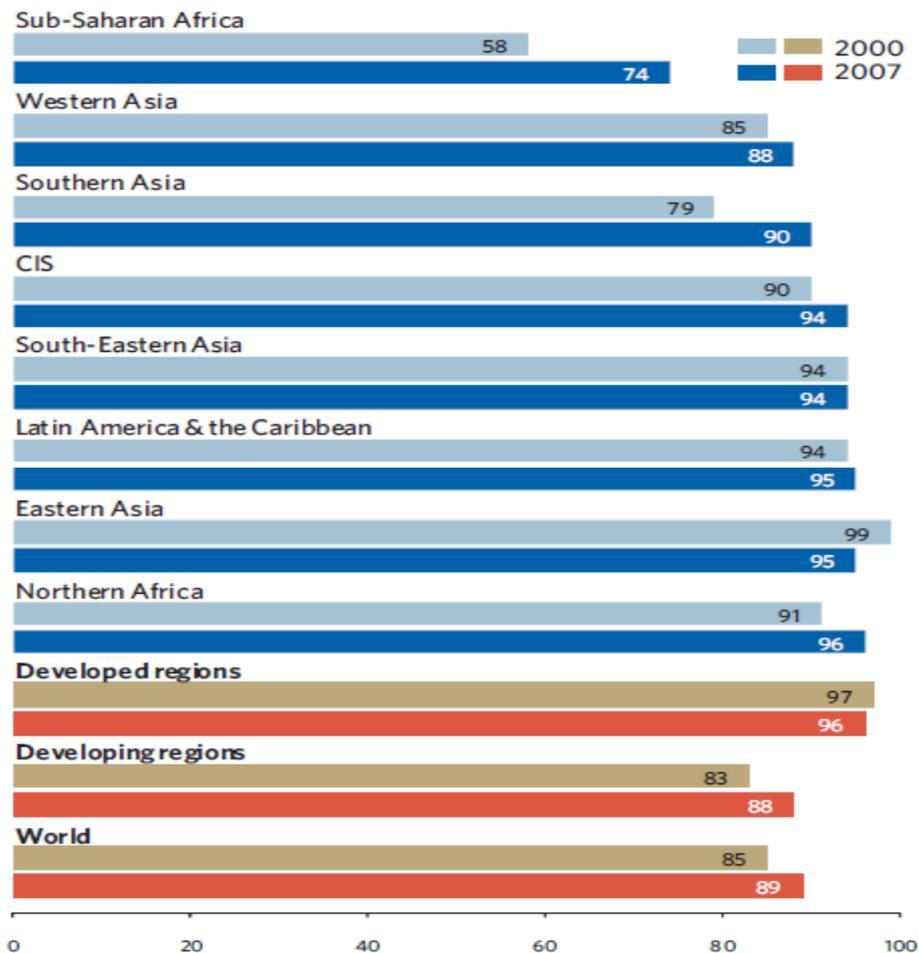
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Girls' education

The first target of MDG3, to eliminate disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, was missed.

In developing regions, as a whole, 95 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 2007, compared to 91 in 1999.

Adjusted net enrolment ratio in primary education,* 1999/2000 and 2006/2007 (Percentage)



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Girls' Education

What are the gaps?

- Completion is as important as school enrolment
- Quality of curricula and numbers of teachers
- Greater focus on secondary education
- Violence against girls in school is major problem and must be tackled

What has made a difference?

- Financial incentives, e.g. eliminating user fees / cash transfers
- Positive action to attract female teachers



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Women's employment

Women's share of waged non-agricultural employment has increased in the last decade, but only slightly.

Women's access to decent work is limited:

- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of all employed women in developing countries, and over 50% globally are working in vulnerable jobs, either as contributing family workers or as own-account workers.
- ▶ Economic crisis: In January 2010 the ILO estimated that 18.7 million more women became unemployed in 2009 as a result of the global economic and financial crises



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What has made a difference?

- ▶ Positive action /Employment guarantees
- ▶ Supporting women's livelihood efforts
- ▶ Private sector benchmarking

Where are the gaps?

- ▶ Persistent wage gaps
- ▶ Social and legal protection for migrant and informal sector women workers
- ▶ Girls' labour, including unpaid household labour.
- ▶ Absence of a social protection floor

Women in the Labor Force

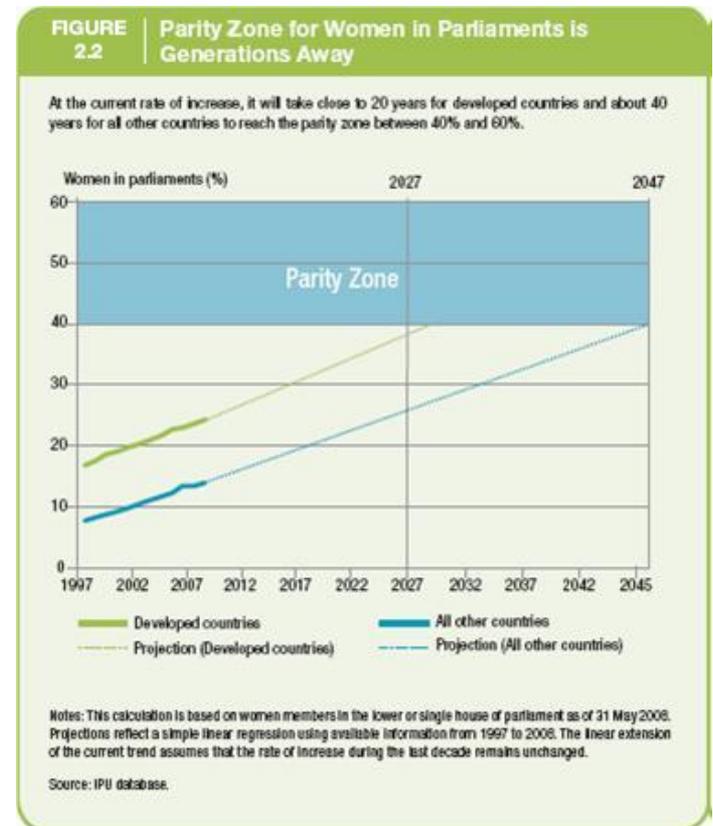
*Women's
wages
represent
from 70
per cent to
90 per cent
of those of
men*

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Women's Representation

Slow progress:

- ▶ Women had 18% of national parliamentary seats in 2009, up from 11.6% in 1995.
- ▶ At the current rate of progress, it will take developed countries at least 20 years and all other countries 40 years to reach the parity zone between 40 and 60%.
- ▶ Significant differences between and within regions





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What has made a difference?

- ▶ Positive Action - Women's representation in countries with quotas is 22%, compared to 15% without.
- ▶ Focusing on women's participation at local level.
- ▶ Proportional representation - In PR systems, 21% of women, compared to 13% for non-PR systems.

Where are the gaps?

- ▶ Increasing women's participation and leadership in political parties.
- ▶ Narrow definition of leadership.
- ▶ Violence against women candidates and political leaders.



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Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

- ▶ Target 5A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
 - ❑ Maternal mortality rate
 - ❑ Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- ▶ Target 5B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health
 - ❑ Contraceptive prevalence rate
 - ❑ *Adolescent birth rate*
 - ❑ *Antenatal care coverage*
 - ❑ *Unmet need for family planning*

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- ▶ Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.

What Has Made a Difference

- ▶ Strengthening health systems
- ▶ Skilled birth attendance
- ▶ Access to contraception

Where are the Gaps

- ▶ Maternal Mortality- only 23 countries on track to meet target
- ▶ Significant disparities between urban and rural women
- ▶ Number of women living with HIV increasing
- ▶ Lack of gender perspective in programmes and policies



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Critical cross-cutting gaps

- ▶ Generation, analysis and use of sex disaggregated data and statistics, including on agricultural and unpaid care work
- ▶ Reducing women's time burden through investments in infrastructure and gender-responsive agricultural policies and economic stimulus packages
- ▶ Inadequate investments in gender equality, including gender equality mechanisms and organizations
- ▶ Addressing impediments to advance women's human rights and end gender discrimination, including women's unequal access to land and property rights and violence against women and girls

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Eight Recommendations

1. Remove barriers to girls education, especially financial impediments by eliminating fees and providing incentives.
2. Make full and productive employment the primary goal of macroeconomic, social and development policies and ensure a social protection floor.
3. Invest in sexual and reproductive health as a key foundation for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.
4. Use **positive action & special temporary measures** to increase the numbers and influence of women in decision-making and leadership, with a strong focus on local level and **promoting women at the front line of service delivery**

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Eight Recommendations (cont.)

5. Improve national capacity to track and report on progress, gaps and opportunities by better collection and use of sex-disaggregated data
6. Reduce women's work burden through investments in infrastructure, labour saving technologies and gender-responsive economic stimulus packages.
7. Remove all gender discriminatory laws and policies and support women's organizing, especially for equal land rights and to end violence against women (**including the SG's UNiTE campaign & the UN Trust Fund**)
8. Scale up and account for investments in gender equality, including through gender responsive public financial management reform that institutionalizes gender responsive budgeting & **the gender entity**

Strengthening Accountability: Gender Equality Must Be 'Mission Critical' to Accountability

- ▶ Women must participate in all oversight and monitoring processes, as full participants in public debates and processes that delegate power
 - ▶ Accountability systems must make the advancement of gender equality and women's rights one of the standards against which performance of officials is assessed
- 

Strengthening Accountability: Gender Equality Must Be 'Mission Critical' to Accountability

Support women's organizing to generate demand for accountability in meeting commitments

Examples:

- ▶ *Gender-responsive budget analysis* to show the impact of public spending plans on gender equality
- ▶ *Participatory public audits* to ask whether public funds committed to women had the intended effect
- ▶ *Report cards on public services* assessing levels of response to women's needs
- ▶ *Legal reform* to criminalize violations of women's rights
- ▶ *Public interest litigation* on matters such as equal pay for equal work or sexual harassment

**THANK YOU
FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

