

**UN Inter-Agency Network on
Women and Gender Equality
New York, 22-25 February 2005**

**IANWGE/2005/3
Fourth session**

Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals

Task Managers: UNDP/World Bank

**Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender Equality and the Millennium
Development Goals
for the
Meeting of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality
New York, 22-25 February 2005**

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1. Introduction and Background

The Task Force on Gender Equality and the MDGs was established at the Second Session of the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (24-27 February 2003). The Task Force was asked to “provide an open and participatory exercise to foster a common approach to engendering the MDGs.”

The World Bank and UNDP were designated as co-chairs of the Task Force. Other Task Force members include: IFAD, ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, FAO, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNU, UNIFEM, OSAGI, DAW, and the five regional commissions. A core group of Task Force members (UNDP, World Bank, DAW, UNIFEM and UNFPA) in collaboration with DFID (on behalf of the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality) took the lead in ensuring the successful achievement of the 2003 deliverables, which included: an **On-line Discussion on Gender Equality and the MDGs; a Workshop on Gender Equality and the MDGs** (<http://www.worldbank.org/gender/mdgworkshop/home.htm>); and a **Website on Gender Equality and the MDGs** (<http://www.mdgender.net/>). These **activities resulted in a number of publications**, including:

- UNDP: MDG National Reports: A Look through a Gender Lens (<http://www.undp.org/gender/docs/mdgs-genderlens.pdf>)
- WB: Gender Equality and the MDGs (<http://www.worldbank.org/gender/gendermdg.pdf>)
- WHO: ‘En-gendering’ the MDGs on Health (http://www.mdgender.net/resources/monograph_detail.php?MonographID=13)
- Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals (Leaflet) (http://www.mdgender.net/resources/tool_detail.php?ToolID=4)

2. Task Force Deliverables During 2004

- **Full meetings of the Task Force as a Whole:** During 2004 the Task Force met on November 30, 2004 in New York. Meeting minutes are attached in Annex 1.

- **Meetings of the Task Force Co-Chairs:** In addition to the full meetings of the Task Force, the co-chairs of the Task Force met virtually and via teleconferences throughout January and February to follow up on the agreed-upon tasks in preparation for the IANWGE meeting and the 49th session of the CSW in February/March, 2005.
- **Full meetings of the Task Force as a Whole:** During 2004 the Task Force met on November 30, 2004 in New York. Meeting minutes are attached in Annex 1.
- **Meetings of the Task Force Co-Chairs:** In addition to the full meetings of the Task Force, the co-chairs of the Task Force met virtually and via teleconferences throughout January and February to follow up on the agreed-upon tasks in preparation for the IANWGE meeting and the 49th session of the CSW in February/March, 2005.
- **Side event on gender and MDGs during CSW:** This panel is scheduled for March 2, 2005 from 3-5 pm in the Dag Hammersjold Auditorium. In consultation with its members and members of the OECD/DAC Gender Networking Group, the Task Force is identifying high-level panelists who will provide practical examples of how the MDGs have been accomplished at the country level.
- **Compilation of gender and MDG materials for distribution at the CSW:** The Task Force agreed to compile a folder on gender and the MDGs that will be widely distributed to participants at the 49th session of the CSW and the Ten-Year Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action. This folder consists of reprints of Task Force publications and a new set of **one-page notes on gender and the MDGs** describing Task Force member organizations' respective gender and MDG-related work. These are attached in Annex II.

The Task Force's deliverables for 2005 will be discussed at a Task Force meeting during the forthcoming session of IANWGE from 22-25 February 2005.

Annex I:
Task Force Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2004

On November 30th, the UNIANWGE Task Force on gender and the MDGs (co-chaired by UNDP and the World Bank) met at the World Bank's office in New York. Participants included: Meagan Bovell, UNIFEM; Kate Burns, OSAGI/UN-DESA; Helene Carlsson, World Bank; Amina Djacta, UN-Habitat; Sonia Elliott, UNAIDS; Saahir Lone, UNRWA; A. Waafas Ofoosu-Amaah, World Bank; Rachel Shoemaker, UN-Habitat; Elliot Treharne, UN-Habitat; Xema von Lilien, IFAD; and Aster Zaoude, UNDP. The meeting was chaired by A. Waafas Ofoosu-Amaah, World Bank.

During the meeting the Task Force's workplan was discussed. Participants also discussed how the work of the Task Force can strategically be fed into the upcoming Millennium +5 event and other forthcoming global events.

The following decisions were made:

1. One-page note on gender and the MDGs:

Members of the Task Force, and other interested members of the UNIANWGE, will prepare one-page notes on their organizations' respective gender and MDG-related work. The one-pagers will be published in UNDP's 2005 review of gender and the MDGs. They will also be included in the package of materials on gender and the MDGs that the Task Force is putting together for Beijing+10.

To ensure consistency, the Task Force will request agencies that are planning to submit one-pagers to follow a standard format (see the attached format) and cover the following three aspects:

- i) From a gender perspective, how are the MDGs related to the respective organizations' mandates?
- ii) What have the respective organizations done (or are currently doing) on gender and the MDGs?
- iii) List of references and resources.

2. Online discussion on the links between women, poverty and the MDGs:

As part of the ongoing UN-DAW-sponsored online discussion on the Beijing Platform's Critical Areas of Concern, the World Bank is hosting a discussion on women and poverty, planned to run in January 2005. The MDG perspective will be incorporated into the design of this online discussion. To facilitate a broad-based discussion, Task Force members are encouraged to send the World Bank email distribution lists of those who may be interested in participating in the discussion. The World Bank will then send the announcement of the online discussion to these lists.

3. Compilation of gender and MDG materials for distribution at CSW:

The Task Force decided to compile a folder of materials related to gender and the MDGs for distribution at the CSW. In particular, the folders will include: i) the one-page notes prepared referred to in 1 above; ii) the one-page overview of the links between gender and the MDGs that was prepared in 2003 by the UNIANWGE and the OECD-DAC; iii) a summary of 2004 online discussion on gender and the MDGs (to be prepared by **UNIFEM**). The folders will be distributed at CSW.

4. Side event on gender and MDGs during CSW:

The Task Force decided that, depending on the nature and types of activities that DAW would announce could be organized by agencies, it would organize a side-event on gender and the MDGs during CSW. The event is envisioned as a high-level panel. The focus will be on operationalizing the MDGs at the country level. The Task Force will identify high-level panelists who will provide practical examples of how the MDGs have been accomplished at the country level. Because UNDP has sponsored over almost 90 country reports on experiences with implementing the MDGs, it agreed to suggest some countries that could serve as case examples for this country-focused discussion. **UNDP** and the **World Bank** will take the lead in organizing the panel, and will coordinate closely with **UN-DAW**.

Annex II:
One-page Briefs on Task Force Members' Gender and MDG Activities

GENDER EQUALITY &

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

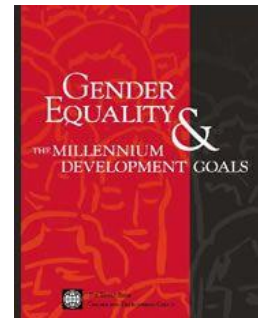


WORLD BANK INITIATIVES

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent an unprecedented global commitment to reducing income and non-income poverty. The World Bank is committed to building effective partnerships to assist developing countries in reaching these challenging goals. In helping countries develop and implement effective strategies to meet the MDGs, the World Bank recognizes the importance of taking gender issues into account. Together with the UNDP, the World Bank chairs the Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals. Some examples of recent World Bank initiatives on linking gender equality with the MDGs are highlighted below:

Analytical Work on the Links Between the MDGs and Gender Equality

Recognizing the importance of the MDGs as a call to global action on poverty reduction and the role of gender equality, the World Bank produced a special report on the links between gender equality and the MDGs. The report, "Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals," highlights the importance of gender equality for achieving all of the MDGs (not only the third MDG on gender equality) and provides examples of how to integrate gender analysis when designing country-level policies and interventions aimed at accelerating progress towards the MDGs.



Multi-Partner Initiative on Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals

In November 2003, the World Bank and UNDP sought to galvanize support for gender equality as an integral part of achieving the MDGs by organizing a high-level international workshop that drew 200 participants from developing countries, the UN system, bilateral organizations, civil society, and the private sector. The workshop, hosted by the World Bank in Washington DC, was a collaborative effort co-sponsored by the UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality, and the Multilateral Development Bank/IMF Working Group on Gender.

Workshop participants identified three strategic ways to integrate a gender perspective in MDG-oriented policies and interventions at the country level: i) engendering national planning processes; ii) mobilizing grassroots support for gender equality; and iii) disaggregating MDG monitoring by sex. They proposed follow-up actions in each area.

Gender Sensitive Monitoring of Progress towards the MDGs

As part of the World Bank's efforts to improve results-based monitoring, a report on progress in achieving MDG 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) was prepared as a contribution to the first Global Monitoring Report produced by the World Bank.

Improving Sex-Disaggregated Statistics on the MDGs

Increasing the availability of user-friendly data on gender differences is essential for countries to better measure development determinants and outcomes. The World Bank is supporting several initiatives aimed at making sex-disaggregated data related to the MDGs readily available to governments, civil society, and development partners. These initiatives include GenderStats, a global electronic database of gender statistics and indicators, and regional databases for Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa. The World Bank is also co-chairing the UN Inter-Agency MDG Sub-group on Gender Indicators. In this capacity, the World Bank is working together with other agencies to improve gender indicators for measuring and monitoring progress towards the MDGs.

www.worldbank.org/gender



FAO INITIATIVES

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts. FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. Gender equality is essential for achieving the MDGs and FAO's mandate.

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

FAO promotes gender equality in access to and control of productive resources, contributing directly to the reduction of rural poverty and hunger. FAO also develops strategic policy and decision-support tools to better understand and address population dynamics, gender-determined constraints and opportunities for improved rural livelihoods, interlinkages between gender, ageing, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, poverty, environmental sustainability and rural development. Finally, FAO provides advice and helps build capacity in Member Nations on the production and analysis of gender-disaggregated data thus strengthening their capacity to analyze who the poor and hungry are and to recognize how women and men have different needs and opportunities.

MDG 2: Achieve universal education

In collaboration with the World Food Programme, FAO introduced the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) for HIV/AIDS affected orphans and other vulnerable girls and boys in need of farming and life skills empowering them for their future livelihoods and food security.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

FAO provides policy support to Member Nations to strengthen domestic policies and mechanisms that aim to achieve gender and social equity by analyzing existing differences between women and men and by pointing out opportunities to overcome such inequalities, including the formulation of gender-responsive trade policies. The Socio-economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme provides guidelines and training materials on specific technical areas such as natural and household resource management, microfinance, and emergencies. FAO promotes gender analysis, disaggregation of data by sex and the development and use of gender-sensitive indicators in all sectors (fisheries, forests, livestock, and agricultural systems). A website on gender and food security provides information about the gender-linked roles, responsibilities and challenges faced by rural women and men.

MDG 7: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Agriculture-sector strategies to prevent HIV/AIDS and mitigate its impact on rural poverty have been developed in several countries. Studies on the impact of the epidemic on agriculture have been carried out since 1988. Policy support and capacity building is provided to Member Nations on the interlinkages between ageing, agricultural labour supply, gender inequality and HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

MDG 8: Ensure environmental sustainability

FAO supports research to record and document gender specific local knowledge for strengthening agricultural and rural development and maintaining agro-biodiversity. FAO continues to develop gender-sensitive indicators for natural resource management, briefs and case-studies on gender and gender-linked constraints and opportunities in the management of household and natural resources.



IFAD INITIATIVES

The mandate of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is to combat poverty and hunger in the most disadvantaged rural regions of the world. IFAD's Strategic Framework recognizes the relation between poverty reduction and gender, and reflects in its objectives the centrality of gender issues as a fundamental development concern.

IFAD's Work on Gender & the MDGs

Progress in the area of extreme poverty (MDG1-Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger) lies at the heart of IFAD's work. Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is crucial to this end, and is addressed by IFAD using a three-pronged approach: women's economic empowerment, participation in decision-making, and improved well-being. Crucial to this objective is improving women's access to a variety of assets, all closely linked to most MDGs, including natural, financial, social and human assets (land, microfinance, formal and informal groups, nutrition, education), as well as infrastructure (water supply) and technology and tools (equipment for production). These assets are fundamental to most areas of the MDGs.

Through its three-fold strategic approach, IFAD contributes directly and indirectly to most MDG targets, as follows:

- Action to build women's capabilities and well-being makes a significant indirect contribution to achieving the MDG targets related to nutrition, infant and child mortality, reproductive health, women's education and sustainable management of natural resources.
- Infrastructure investments supported by IFAD have a catalytic effect and particularly benefit women and girls by releasing them from part of their domestic responsibilities. Improved access to essential services and infrastructure, for example schools and health care, safe drinking water, improved education and health and often adult literacy (MDG 2, 3, 7).
- Education (mainly informal) and training in IFAD-supported projects aiming to improve women's economic status are vital to achieving the MDG target related to increased educational opportunities for girls. Access to education and training is provided through functional literacy courses; training in technical issues (micro-enterprise; crops; livestock); leadership, management and accounting; health, nutrition and AIDS/HIV (MDG 2,3).
- By promoting women's involvement in natural resource management, IFAD recognizes the relationship between gender equality, poverty reduction, sustainable development and protection of the environment. (MDG 7).
- Women's public decision-making is promoted in IFAD's projects, also through quotas and positive action measures. The challenge remains to increase their role as decision-makers in community affairs and local institutions, a necessary step towards improving political representation and achieving the target of the Millennium Goal related to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment (MDG 3).
- National partnerships, regional and international strategic coalitions are key in IFAD's catalytic efforts towards accomplishing the MDG. Partnership with UN system agencies generates synergies that improve the poverty impact of IFAD actions (Goal 8).

Monitoring Women's Empowerment

Due to the high and well-documented correlation between child nutrition and women's status (and, in particular, level of education), IFAD considers the indicator of chronic child malnutrition not only as a key poverty indicator but also as a powerful indicator of women's empowerment and well-being. Thus, IFAD uses the indicator of chronic child malnutrition as one of the two "anchor indicators" for Goal 1 in its Results and Impact Monitoring System (RIMS), which is applied in all IFAD projects under design. Furthermore, the Goal 3 indicators have been incorporated in IFAD's Performance-Based Allocation System (PBAS) to assess country trends.

IFAD and gender
Gender-related policies and strategies
IFAD's regional gender programmes

www.ifad.org/gender
www.ifad.org/gender/policy/index.htm
www.ifad.org/gender/regional/index.htm
<http://mdgender.net>



ILO INITIATIVES

International Labour Organization (ILO) work includes its reporting role on Goal 3, Indicator 11 on “Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.” ILO is also a member of the Gender Subgroup of the United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators, and has participated in the Millennium Project’s Task Force 3 on Primary Education and Gender Equality.

Concerning Goal 3, indicator 11, the presence of women in non-agricultural paid employment continued to increase globally in 2003. This indicates a growing integration of working women into the monetary economy. However, the type and quality of jobs available to women have not necessarily improved, and women continue to suffer more acutely than men from lack of decent work. An extremely high number of women are confined to “female jobs,” low-productivity jobs with low status—often insecure, unsafe, and poorly paid. Women are more likely than men to work in agriculture for family subsistence, and in the informal employment activities that do not provide financial security and/or social benefits.

Regional and world estimates computed by the ILO show that worldwide the share of women in non-agricultural wage employment increased from 36.8% in 1993 to 39.1% in 2003. There are important differences in the levels of this indicator between regions and individual countries, which reflects socio-cultural attitudes as well as differences in legislation, policies and programmes, and support available to women and men to enable them to balance work and family responsibilities. Concerning the latter, in many countries these responsibilities have dramatically-increased the burden of care work on women and girls as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Since Indicator 11, for which the ILO Bureau of Statistics is responsible for reporting, reflects only one aspect of women’s situation in the labour market, the Subgroup on Gender discussed in its September 2004 meeting various proposals for alternative/supplementary indicators. A proposal was made to expand the current indicator to cover all sectors and types of employment, covering the wage and self employment in both the formal/informal economy and agriculture/non-agriculture.

The proposed indicator on share of women in employment by type has four dimensions: 1) share of women in total employment; 2) share of women in agricultural employment; 3) share of women in non-agricultural wage employment (current MDG indicator) and 3.1) share of women in informal wage employment; and 4) share of women in non-agricultural self-employment and 4.1) share of women in informal self-employment. The proposal has received the support of the UN Inter-Agency Expert Group on MDG Indicators and will be presented to the Office of the UN Secretary-General for formal approval after the Millennium Summit in September 2005.

At the initiative of the ILO, a new Subgroup on Employment was set up in relation to improving Indicator 45 on “Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total”. In relation to this, ILO also proposed adding a new dimension to the indicator, which would read, “labour productivity and decent employment by age and sex.”

Gender equality is a key element of the ILO agenda of Decent Work for All Women and Men. Decent Work Country Programmes, which include poverty reduction strategies and which should be formulated in gender-sensitive terms, are the ILO contribution to national development as well as to international goal setting such as the MDGs.

<http://www.ilo.org/>

<http://mdgender.net>



IOM INITIATIVES

After half a century of experience, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has become the leading international organization working with migrants and governments to provide humane responses to migration challenges. Some of the links between gender, migration and the MDGs are summarized below.

Inter-linkages Between Goal 3 and Migration

The link between Gender Equality and Migration is twofold: on the one hand, gender is perhaps the most important single factor shaping their migration experience, which often means that female migrants experience greater difficulties and even dangers when migrating. On the other hand, migration can contribute to the empowerment of women, and become an opportunity to promote gender equality. Migration holds more dangers for women than for men. Women are more vulnerable to physical, sexual and verbal abuse when traveling, and they are more likely to fall prey to trafficking and exploitation. With regard to the integration in the country of destination, a female migrant in a situation of relative dependency may face greater difficulty than a single male migrant. Psychosocial pressures and divergent sets of cultural expectations often result in a higher degree of marginalization of women migrants in the host country. In addition, as women and foreigners, migrant women often face double discrimination in the labour market, and their access to employment, social and health programmes, can be more limited. Sometimes their legal residence may depend on their relationship with an employed male partner.

The Feminization of Migration

The proportion of female migrants among all international migrants has been rising steadily, to reach almost 49 percent in 2000). Among migrants in the developing world, female migrants constitute nearly 51 percent of all migrants and account for about 46 percent of all international migrants. Also in some regions of the world, such as Europe, Northern America, Oceania and Eastern and South-eastern Asia, the number of female migrants exceeds 50 percent of the total number of international migrants. Some countries export more women than men, e.g. Sri Lanka.

The role of women in the migration process is changing considerably. Instead of moving to follow their husbands or families as “dependents,” more and more women migrate independently or as heads of families themselves. While this type of migration can contribute to the disruption of traditional family relations and social systems in the countries of origin, it can also help to empower women to greater independence and autonomy and eliminate gender disparities by increasing the share of women in paid employment situations, one of the targets identified to monitor Goal 3. Furthermore, research has shown that women migrants tend to send a larger share of their income home as remittances, which in turn contributes to poverty reduction. In Sri Lanka, money transfers by female migrants made up 62 per cent of the total sum of remittances in 1999.

It is not only the money earned but also heightened self-esteem associated with employment, education and knowledge that can make female migrants more powerful in their host and home community. Female migrants returning home can contribute to reconstruction and peace building efforts. Hitherto relegated to a role of ‘victims’, women can become partners for peace as they are ‘multipliers’ and agents of development. The survival and coping skills they develop during the migration process can and should be considered as potential sources of change and development. In turn, the empowerment of women in each generation will have effects on the next, providing children with female role models and helping to influence ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

Beyond Goal 3, gender equality is often identified as essential for achieving all the MDGs. As noted in a 2003 UNDP report on the MDGs, “[It] is at the core of whether the Goals will be achieved—from improving health and fighting disease, to reducing poverty and mitigating hunger, to expanding education and lowering child mortality, to increasing access to safe water, to ensuring environmental sustainability.” With regard to migration, achieving greater gender equality would not only benefit individual migrants, but also enhance the development effects of migration. In turn, the potential of migration processes for achieving gender equality has to be explored more systematically, including the linkages between Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6.

<http://www.iom.int/>

<http://mdgender.net>



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAIDS
UNHCR • UNICEF • WFP • UNDP • UNFPA
UNODC • ILO • UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

UNAIDS INITIATIVES

UNAIDS is firmly committed to the achievement of the MDGs. Its core mission is to engage with its UN Cosponsors and a broad range of civil society partners to reduce the spread of AIDS (MDG 6) and its impact on families, communities and societies.

The AIDS epidemic has major implications for the achievement of the MDGs. HIV and AIDS is having a devastating impact on entire societies. The number of people living with HIV has risen in every region of the world in the last two years. AIDS is undermining past gains in reducing child mortality and placing burdens on families which make it difficult to send children to school. The gender dynamics of the epidemic are unmistakable. HIV now affects women globally on a scale equal to that of men and affects young women at alarming and disproportionate rates. Lack of education, access to information and basic health services, denial of property and inheritance rights, dearth of HIV prevention options that women can initiate, and the prevalence of violence against women in the home and in conflict, all create an environment which undermines women's ability to protect themselves from HIV. Without attention, these issues will continue to fuel the rising infection rates among women and girls.

UNAIDS is taking a lead in highlighting the gender dynamics of the epidemic, the need to broaden prevention strategies to address the particular vulnerabilities of women, and the imperative to work together with men to make headway in addressing societal forces undermining women's ability to adequately protect themselves and their families from AIDS. While gender issues are mainstreamed in all of UNAIDS work, more recently UNAIDS has launched the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to give increased attention and urgency to issues affecting women. UNAIDS 2004 Epidemiological Update also highlighted the epidemiological facts on women's infection rates to ensure that national AIDS strategies are based on clear data and evidence tailored to national circumstances. **(MDG 3)**

The fight against HIV/AIDS is also critical to and dependent on the achievement of **MDG 1** (eradication of extreme poverty and hunger) and **MDG 7** (environmental sustainability). AIDS affects individuals in their prime productive years, taking a toll on family income and support systems. Particularly in Africa, it has weakened traditional coping systems, making families more vulnerable in situations of famine, as witnessed in last year's food crisis in Southern Africa. Women own few assets outright, and are among the poorest of the poor. A significant number of women are agricultural workers and are largely responsible for household water supply. Illness from AIDS weakens their ability to carry out these functions, caring for sick family members requires time away from income-generating activities, loss of a husband or bread-winner leads to increased poverty in the home and risk-taking that can increase one's exposure to AIDS, and loss of a mother puts children at risk. Likewise, access to safe drinking water, good sanitation, and proper nutrition are critical for those living with HIV in order to reduce the incidence of opportunistic infections, allowing people to continue working and providing for their families. Good nutrition and clean water are also essential for effective anti-retroviral treatment. Food security, poverty, and AIDS are inextricably linked. UNAIDS is working with WFP, UNDP and FAO to address issues of food security, poverty, safe drinking water, and hunger as it relates to AIDS.

As part of efforts to achieve **MDG 2** (universal education), UNAIDS works closely with UNICEF, UNESCO the World Bank and other partners towards universal girls education. The UNAIDS Interagency Task Force on Education and AIDS has been a prime supporter of getting girls (and boys) into school, of promoting lifeskills and AIDS prevention within the curricula, and of finding ways to target out of school youth. UNAIDS is also a core partner of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, and has worked to ensure that an HIV/AIDS Strategy is a critical element of all Education Sector Plans which Governments prepare for funding through the Fast Track partnership

With respect to **MDG 4** (reduce child mortality) and **MDG 5** (improve maternal health), together with UNICEF and WHO, UNAIDS works to reduce the number of children born with HIV, to expand PMCT programmes to include ART care for mothers and their partners, and to extend the lives of parents to enable them to protect and care for their children. Through the leadership of UNICEF, UNAIDS also supports programmes to care for the growing number of children orphaned by AIDS and other causes, to ensure they are in school, and are protected from abuse and hunger.

UNAIDS core mission is to foster a global partnership of the international community, UN organizations and civil society organizations **(MDG 8 - global partnership for development)** in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. One example is its support for joint national planning for HIV/AIDS (the "three ones").

GENDER EQUALITY & THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNDP INITIATIVES

UNDP is the UN's global development network. An organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. (Mark Malloch Brown)

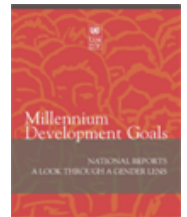
UNDP, as the global scorekeeper of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), co-chairs with the World Bank the Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender Equality and the MDGs.

Global Programme: Gender and MDGs in 5 Pilot Countries

The UNDP global programme on Gender and MDGs started in 2004 with co-financing by the UK/DfID and the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund, under UNIFEM execution. The programme pursues two key objectives through innovative pilot initiatives in Peru, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya and Morocco: (1) advocacy on the gender impact of the MDGs: engendering MDG reporting, campaigns and implementation at national level; and, (2) strengthen methodologies for gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting on progress towards women's empowerment and gender equality across all the MDGs. The learnings from this pilot programme will be widely disseminated as good practices for 'engendering' MDG implementation beyond 2005.

Gender Review of MDG

In 2003, UNDP piloted a methodology to review MDG reports with a gender lens and feed the findings in the next generation of MDG reports. In 2005, UNDP will publish a comprehensive gender review of some 80 national and regional MDG reports. The publication will be launched for the purpose of further advocacy and action towards the implementation of the agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment across the MDGs.



E-Discussions on Gender and MDGs Moderated by UNDP in 2003-2004

Key discussions included:¹

How to use the MDGs to promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Who cares about the care economy? How to account for women's unpaid work and informal sector activities in PRSPs, in MDG costing, pro-poor macroeconomic policies and budgeting with gender sensitivity

Gender in National MDG Reports: how to ensure gender reporting, sex disaggregated data/analysis and participation of gender equality advocates in MDGR processes? Learning from successful initiatives: Uzbekistan, Albania, Jordan, Russian Federation, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, and Cambodia.

MDGs in Conflict and Disaster Situation: common understanding and approaches linking MDGs, conflict and gender equality issues: preliminary entry points for UNDP CO programming in crisis countries.

Building Capacity and Statistical Literacy for Monitoring MDGs

The UNDP project on capacity building and statistical literacy for MDG monitoring: (1) makes data more accessible, including sex disaggregated data; (2) enhances statistical capacity and literacy, including that of women data users and advocacy groups; and, (3) supports evidence-based advocacy. The project covers 30 countries over 12 months. It assists in the dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated data and contributes to providing data/information /analysis for informed discussion on gender issues.

¹ The discussions were cross-posted on the MDG Net, Gender Equality Net, and Crisis Prevention and Recovery Net. MDG Net subscribers count up to 1,900 ranging from staff of UNDP, other UN agencies, international development agencies, civil societies, international financial institutions, governments (including national statistic offices) and bilateral donors.



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO INITIATIVES

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) contributes to the achievement of each of the MDGs through education, the natural and human sciences, culture and communication, with a special focus on the urgent needs of disadvantaged and excluded groups or geographic regions, countries or groups of countries.

UNESCO is engaged, at both upstream and downstream levels, in education and learning issues that are at the core of development processes. It hence seeks to promote the achievement of the MDGs and national development targets by :

- Facilitating new types of development solutions (**MDG 2, 4 & 5**),
- Developing partnerships (**MDG8**) and,
- Enhancing capacity development opportunities for women (**MDG 3**), youth and marginalized groups

The Section for Women and Gender Equality of the Bureau of Strategic Planning focuses on MDG 3 and, as the central gender unit, is promoting the integration of gender equality issues throughout UNESCO's programmes in these areas.

More specifically:

- Coordinator of the Education For All initiative (www.unesco.org/efa), UNESCO contributes to the attainment of **MDGs 2 & 3** through its larger input into the achievement of all six Education For All Goals. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is the lead agency for the collection of data and indicators for Goals 2 & 3, which feed into the annual EFA Global Monitoring Report. The 2003/4 issue focused on Gender Equality in Education (www.efareport.unesco.org).
- HIV/AIDS is a major challenge for the world community and represents a serious obstacle to the attainment of the MDGs. In this area, UNESCO focuses on prevention education (www.unesco.org/aids). In carrying out its mission, UNESCO considers that any effective response to HIV/AIDS must be culturally appropriate, gender responsive, rights-based, age specific and involve people with HIV/AIDS.
- UNESCO's Natural Sciences programme seeks to improve human security through a better and gender-responsive management of the environment. This goes hand in hand with an effort to enhance women's and men's equal participation in science, engineering and technology. Both programmes pursue the MDGs, in particular **Goals 1,3, 7 and 8**.
- The Social and Human Sciences Sector focuses on **MDG 3** (gender equality) through its programme on the "promotion of human rights and the fight against discrimination" as well as through its initiatives on building peace and human security. Women's participation at all levels is encouraged, whether in teaching and research programmes, in access to the press and audiovisual media (and their image therein), in community development programmes, or in public life (through cooperation with parliamentarians).
- Access to information and knowledge increasingly determines patterns of learning, cultural expressions and social participation. It also provides opportunities for development, the effective reduction of poverty and the preservation of peace. Therefore, though there is no MDG that specifically targets communication, UNESCO's actions to promote women's and men's equal access to information and knowledge and participation in the media are seen by the Organization as vital contributions to the achievement of all the MDGs, notably **MDG 3**.

<http://www.unesco.org/>

<http://mdgender.net>



UN-HABITAT INITIATIVES

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of target 11 on improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, and target 10 on Water and sanitation, with emphasis on urban areas and small towns. Implementation of target 11 encompasses action related to all the other MGDs, including reduction in urban poverty. To this end, UN-HABITAT has initiated a number of programmes and gender has been mainstreamed as far as possible.

The studies on urban inequalities conducted in 35 cities around the world in 2003/2004 addressed the slums and non slum disparities and gender issues in water and sanitation, secure tenure, adequate housing, decision-making, health, income, domestic violence and adolescent fertility. In an effort to improve the monitoring of MDG targets 10 and 11, UN-HABITAT in collaboration with the UN Statistical Office, and UNFPA launched a programme in 2003 to sensitize Directors and to train technical staff of National Statistical Offices in selected countries on monitoring the two targets, but which effectively focuses on all MDGs. Gender and MDGs is one of the topics for each training programme, not only with regard to goal three, but also as a cross cutting issue. To date two Africa regional workshops have taken place in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2003 and 2004. An Asia Regional workshop was held in November 2004 in Bangkok, and another workshop for technical officers from Anglophone countries in Africa took place on 6-10 December 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. Similar workshops will take place in Latin America and West Africa for the French speaking countries. Additionally, UN-HABITAT is developing gender indicators in human settlements.

Emphasis is placed on land, secure tenure, slum upgrading and urban governance as critical areas in achieving target 11. The Law and Land Tenure Reviews in Latin America, Southern Africa and Asia in 2004-2005 also focus on women's rights to land and property, including through inheritance and marital property rights. A specific study on forms of co-tenure, which may improve intra-household and intra-community secure tenure for women is being undertaken. Secure tenure of women is an ongoing focus of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and is included as an element of the Campaign launches which started in 2001. All Campaign Steering Committees include women and one of the focus areas within the situation analyses carried out at city level is gender. Women's micro-saving schemes are part of several city action plans. Tools completed include an overview of international human rights instruments related to women's rights to land, housing and property; and a progress report on discrimination against women's property and inheritance rights, providing a global overview of relevant constitutional and other legal provisions of a variety of countries.

Gender was one of the four areas covered by the urban sector survey carried out by UN-HABITAT in 15 countries within the context of localising MDGs in 2004. The preliminary findings of the survey indicate *inter alia* the general lack of gender policies and programmes in municipal planning and development. The Inter-regional conference on Urban-rural linkages held in Nairobi, Kenya on 1-4 October 2004 also addressed and presented case illustrations on the impact of rural urban migration on women's economic and social empowerment and gender relations. A project on empowering urban women entrepreneurs through housing development and land rights in East Africa, which aims at improving women's incomes and the living environment is being implemented. In Kenya the programme focuses on providing credit for 30 women and men involved in urban informal sector enterprises. In Tanzania emphasis is on providing a loan guarantee for housing and the formation of women's housing cooperatives. In Uganda 20 housing units have been completed and the women will be trained in business skills and, also advanced business loans in an effort to improve their incomes.

In May 2003 the UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and Pacific working with, UNIFEM, UNDP-TUGI, IULA and CITYNET initiated the Competitions and Awards Contest for gender responsive local governments and women friendly cities in the Asian region in an effort to improve urban governance from a gender perspective. UN-HABITAT and the Huairou Commission published a tool kit on local-to-local dialogue in September 2004, which presents experiences of six countries in bringing slum dwellers face to face with local authorities to discuss how to improve their living conditions. The Water for African Cities Programme being implemented in 16 African countries has a target for bringing women's voices to bear on to programme activities. An Expert Group Meeting on gender, water and sanitation is being organised to strengthen the gender mainstreaming at city level operations and improve on the gender strategy developed by UN-HABITAT and the Gender and Water Alliance. Gender mainstreaming strategies for Kosovo, Somalia and Iraq were developed in 2003/2004. Gender training tools and actual training were carried out for municipal leaders and councilors in Kosovo and Somaliland in 2003/2004.



UNIFEM INITIATIVES

Resources and References

The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) offer new entry points and opportunities for promoting fulfillment of commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment secured through the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW. This is particularly important in the post-Beijing context, where reviews at national, regional and global levels continue to demonstrate that implementation and accountability for gender equality commitments are uneven. UNIFEM is supporting governmental and non-governmental efforts to strengthen action on the MDGs in a way that furthers implementation and accountability for gender equality.

MDGenderNet

A website that provides access to resources to promote better understanding of and sharing of tools for addressing gender equality in all of the MDGs – from literature on gender equality as it relates to each goal, to tools for advocacy and action. Visit MDGenderNet at <http://mdgender.net>.

Progress of the World's Women 2002, Volume 2: Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals

This edition of UNIFEM's biennial publication Progress of the World's Women presents data and analysis related to Goal 3 of the MDGs. The main section of the report presents an international cross-country assessment of women's situation at the beginning of the new millennium, using the MDG indicators for Goal 3. The second section offers a review of different initiatives being undertaken in countries and regions worldwide to assess progress towards gender equality.

Pathway to Gender Equality: CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs

This resource guide was produced in collaboration with GTZ, and highlights critical gender equality concerns for each MDG, identifies specific measures governments must take, and provides helpful resources to facilitate this work.

A Fair Share for Women: Cambodia Gender Assessment

This toolkit was produced in collaboration with the WB, ADB, UNDP, DFID/UK in cooperation with the Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs. The kit provides a series of policy advocacy briefs per goal for gender-responsive implementation of the MDGs.

Gender and the MDGs: The Case of Peru

This UNIFEM-ECLAC report provides a gender assessment of the MDGs in Peru.

www.unifem.org

<http://mdgender.net>

GENDER EQUALITY & THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNIFEM INITIATIVES

The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) offer new entry points and opportunities for promoting fulfillment of commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment secured through the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW. This is particularly important in the post-Beijing context, where reviews at national, regional and global levels continue to demonstrate that implementation and accountability for gender equality commitments are uneven. UNIFEM is supporting governmental and non-governmental efforts to strengthen action on the MDGs in a way that furthers implementation and accountability for gender equality including by:

Building Awareness, Capacity and Partnerships to Organize Around the MDGs from a Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Perspective

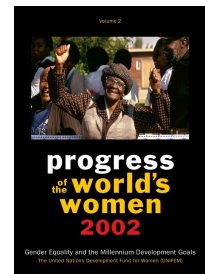
- UNIFEM is executing a global programme in partnership with UNDP to advocate for sustained attention to the gender dimensions of all of the MDGs in country-level activities in Cambodia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, and Peru. UNDP and UNIFEM are linking National Mechanisms for Women and women's advocacy organizations to UN Country Teams and government to mainstream gender into MDG reporting, analytical work, monitoring and implementation. UNIFEM has also spearheaded multi-stakeholder partnerships in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Senegal focused on linking MDGs, CEDAW and the Beijing PFA.
- With many partners – such as the Millennium Campaign, UNDP and the Heinrich Boell Foundation – UNIFEM is convening representatives of global and regional women's rights organizations to provide a space to develop strategies to link women's rights advocacy to MDG Campaigns and the Millennium Summit +5.

Promoting and Producing Advocacy and Analytical Work that Expands Knowledge About How Action on the MDGs Supports Progress Toward Gender Equality

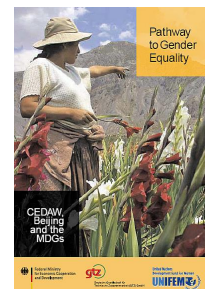
- Globally, UNIFEM has produced and widely circulated: *Progress of the World's Women, 2002* focused on gender equality and the MDGs and *Pathway to Equality: CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs* (in collaboration with GTZ). UNIFEM is an active participant in Task Forces 1 and 3 of the Millennium Project, UN Experts Group on the Millennium Project, the IANWGE's task force on gender and MDGs, and the Interagency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators.
- In partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNIFEM commissioned a series of country reports that analyze the MDGs from a gender perspective using national statistical data. Country reports that analyze each goal and propose additional gender sensitive indicators for achieving the MDGs will be available for Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Expanding the Knowledge Base on Gender and MDGs Amongst Key Stakeholders

As its contribution to an inter-agency initiative on gender and MDGs, UNIFEM launched MDGenderNet, a website that gathers diverse gender and MDG resources in one electronic space. Results of a UNIFEM facilitated six-week online discussion on gender and the MDGs in were used as documentation for the World Bank-UNDP conference on Gender and MDGs in November 2003.



Progress of the World's Women



Pathway to Gender Equality

www.unifem.org

<http://mdgender.net>

GENDER EQUALITY &

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)

UNRWA's Mandate

UNRWA was established by General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of December 1949, which mandated the Agency to “prevent conditions of starvation and distress” among the Palestine refugees who fled their homes in 1948, and “to further conditions of peace and stability” in the areas in which the Agency operates. Initially numbering some 750,000, at end-2004 there were over 4.1 million registered Palestine refugees in UNRWA's five operational areas - Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

UNRWA's Programme Services and the Millennium Development Goals

UNRWA's objectives have historically been gender-sensitive and correspond in significant measure to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Agency focuses on developing the human resources of the Palestine refugees and promoting their well-being through a comprehensive programme of basic and vocational education, primary health care, and social services, coupled with targeted poverty-alleviating interventions. UNRWA has also pioneered a microfinance and micro-enterprise programme that is now the largest source of credit for micro-entrepreneurs in the occupied Palestinian territory, thereby promoting socio-economic development and improving economic opportunities for women, who are among the programme's most reliable clients. UNRWA's services are delivered directly by the Agency through 663 schools, 122 clinics, and numerous other facilities. At end-2004, its staff numbered approximately 24,500.

Today, the Palestine refugees in UNRWA's five operational areas have attained a level of human development that compares favorably with the Middle East region as a whole, an outcome in which UNRWA has played an important role. As a result of its longstanding commitment to the gender-sensitive objectives embodied in the MDGs, Palestine refugee girls and women have shared equitably in these outcomes: UNRWA's schools, which currently enroll almost 500,000 pupils, have long been gender balanced; maternal and child health have been promoted effectively with approximately 215,000 children and 73,000 women presently receiving preventive and pre- and post-natal care, respectively, per year; refugees living in poverty, and in particular families headed by women, have received special assistance including preferential access to technical and vocational education as well as micro-finance loans to help lift them out of poverty. In addition, UNRWA contributes to the fight against AIDS through its basic education programme, and also promotes environmentally-sustainable infrastructure development in refugee camps.

UNRWA continues to promote the Millennium Development Goals in all its programmes, and new initiatives, including a forward-looking strategic plan to upgrade services between 2005-2009, have placed special emphases on gender. UNRWA also plans to strengthen its gender-mainstreaming activities with the implementation of a gender strategy in 2005.

<http://www.un.org/unrwa/>

<http://mdgender.net>

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WFP INITIATIVES

World Food Program (WFP) is a dedicated advocate for women's empowerment and gender equality, and holds that enhancing gender equality is a necessary condition for achieving the MDGs.

WFP's mandate is to provide access to food to hungry men, women and children, thus contributing to ensuring household food security. Within the framework of the Gender Policy (2003-2007) WFP recognizes that women play a crucial role in household food security and therefore should be prime agents for WFP's efforts to reduce hunger. Putting food in the hands of women ensures that it gets to the most vulnerable. WFP strongly supports women's access to and control over food by implementing a series of measures to: (i) give women the entitlement to household food rations; (ii) promote the full participation of women in all food distribution decisions; (iii) give women complete information of the household food entitlements; (iv) encourage women to collect the food themselves; and provide a safe environment for women to collect food rations.

Work on Gender and the MDGs

WFP strives toward the goal of gender equality. In this overall gender context, WFP regards its niche as working with and for women to achieve household food security, thus contributing to the Millennium Development Goals:

- **MDG 1** – For poor households in the economically developing world, food security can be achieved only if all household members, male and female, contribute fully. WFP programmes protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience and resistance to shocks and, at the same time, increase communities' ability to meet necessary food needs.
- **MDG 2** – In the area of education, WFP provides meals to primary school children in order to enhance their ability to learn and as an incentive to stay in school.
- **MDG 3** – Ensuring women's participation in decision-making remains a cross-cutting priority. WFP's Gender Policy focuses on empowering and advancing women in the areas of education, nutrition, adolescent and adult human capital development, and physical asset creation. In 2003, WFP provided meals and/or take home rations to more than 15 million children – 48% of them girls – in 69 countries. Take home rations are provided as an economic incentive for families to send their children, especially girls, to school, thus helping to reduce the gender gap in primary and secondary school attendance.
- **MDGs 4-6** – Maternal health, as well as the mother's level of education, play an important role in reducing child mortality. In the area of health and nutrition, WFP's efforts have focused on meeting the specific nutritional requirements of expectant and nursing mothers by providing them with micronutrient fortified food under all nutrition interventions. In this respect, WFP policy is to provide awareness-raising on nutrition, health, caring practices (pre- and post-natal) and HIV prevention to at least half of all expectant and nursing mothers assisted.
- **MDG 7** – WFP recognizes that women are particularly affected by environmental degradation as they are the main providers of water, fuel, fodder and forest products. WFP is committed to minimizing the environmental impacts of its relief and development interventions, and to promote the prevention of unsustainable natural resource management practices because doing so is crucial for safeguarding food security.
- **MDG 8** – WFP contributes to the gender aspects related to this MDG through positive measures for women to facilitate their participation in food-assisted training activities, including out-of-school education, income-generating skills training, and micro-enterprise establishment, so that women have the competencies that will help them to be economically independent.

United Nations World Food Programme. *Gender Policy 2003-2007*. Rome: World Food Programme, 2003.

GENDER EQUALITY & THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WHO INITIATIVES

The World Health Organization (WHO) is involved in supporting countries in the implementation and monitoring of health-related MDGs. The Department of Gender, Women and Health (GWH) in WHO has developed key messages on gender and the MDGs and emphasizes the importance of Goal 3 in achieving all 8 Goals.²

Gender Storylines in Health-related MDGs

Gender is an important social determinant of health and development as it shapes the rules that regulate the behaviors and values of men and women, as well as the opportunities and access to public goods (including quality health care services) in a given society. Gender equality is therefore integral to the full achievement of all goals.

Engendering the Millennium Development Goals on Health examines the health-related MDGs (numbers 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7) from a gender perspective. Gender *storylines* are intended to contribute to data analysis of progress towards target/goal progress and achievement.

<http://www.who.int/gender/mainstreaming/MDG.pdf>



Engendering the Millennium Development Goals on Health

Violence Against Women and MDGs: Advocacy and Capacity Building

Violence against women (VAW) is a complex phenomenon and is most common where there is great gender inequality and low levels of women's ability to exercise control over their own lives and bodies. VAW has been identified by the MP Task Force on Goal 3 as a key measure of gender equality. However, the measurement of the prevalence of VAW raises methodological and practical difficulties.

- WHO will be releasing a new publication on the linkages between VAW and the MDGs.
- WHO plans to convene a meeting on key indicators for surveillance and prevalence surveys on VAW.
- WHO conducts training workshops with selected national statistics offices on carrying out specialized surveys on VAW.³

Integration of Gender into Health Statistics and MDG indicators

Current measurement tools mask growing disparities as the majority of the 48 MDG indicators (especially the health-related indicators) lack basic information on sex and age. Unless the differences occurring between women and men, girls and boys are revealed, the most vulnerable groups, often poor women, will become lost in statistics.

- WHO actively participates in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group Gender Indicators Subgroup, putting forth recommendations for additional indicators to be used in analysis and storylines.
- WHO is currently developing an advocacy booklet aimed at country health information systems on the importance of collecting, analysing and reporting data by sex. This will contribute to discussions on MDGs as well as to improved health statistics overall.

<http://www.who.int/en/>

<http://mdgender.net>

² A webpage summarizing departmental involvement in MDG processes is currently under construction.

³ Based on the WHO Multi-Country Study on Domestic Violence and Women's Health.