

Gender and Development

Sources: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Population Division, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Inter-Parliamentary Union

	Gender Empowerment Measure (0-1 scale, 1 = complete equality) 2003	Woman Headed Households as a Percent of Total 1990-99 (a)	Maternity and Family Planning				Education and Literacy				Income and Labor		Parliamentary Seats Held by Women (percent of total) 2004	
			Contraceptive Prevalence (percent) 1990-2002 (a)	Women With Unmet Family Planning Needs (percent) 1990-2002 (a)	Maternal Mortality Ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) 2000	Skilled Attendants at Delivery (percent of births) 1995-00	Ratio of Women to Men		Literacy Rate (percent) 2000-04		Annual Earned Income (international dollars) 1991-00 (a,b)			Female Professional and Technical Workers (percent of total) 1992-01 (a)
							Enrolled in Secondary Education 2001-02	Men 2001-02	Women 2000-04	Men 2000-04	Women	Men		
World	..	..	60.9	..	400	58	..	76.6	87.0	..	..	..	15.6
Asia (excl. Middle East)	..	..	64.6	..	..	..	..	78.3	88.3	..	..	..	14.2
Armenia	..	..	60.5	11.8	55	97	106	99.2	99.7	2,564	3,700	..	4.6
Azerbaijan	..	..	55.4	11.5	94	84	98	..	..	2,322	4,044	..	10.5
Bangladesh	0.22	..	53.8	15.3	380	12	109	31.4	50.3	1,150	2,035	25	2.0	
Bhutan	..	..	18.8	..	420	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.3
Cambodia	0.36	..	23.8	32.6	450	32	59	59.3	80.8	1,622	2,117	33	10.9	
China	..	..	83.8	..	56	76	..	86.5	95.1	3,571	5,435	..	20.2
Georgia	0.39	..	40.5	23.8	32	96	108	..	..	1,325	3,283	64	..
India	..	..	48.2	15.8	540	43	74	..	..	1,442	3,820	..	9.3
Indonesia	..	..	57.4	9.2	230	64	100	83.4	92.5	2,138	4,161	..	8.0
Japan	0.53	20.0	55.9	..	10	100	101	..	..	16,977	37,208	46	9.9
Kazakhstan	..	..	66.1	8.7	210	99	98	99.2	99.7	4,247	7,156	..	8.6
Korea, Dem People's Rep	..	..	61.8	..	67	97	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep	0.38	..	80.5	..	20	100	100	..	..	10,747	23,226	34	5.5
Kyrgyzstan	..	..	59.5	11.6	110	98	101	..	..	1,269	1,944	..	6.7
Lao People's Dem Rep	..	..	32.2	..	650	19	72	55.5	77.4	1,358	2,082	..	22.9
Malaysia	0.52	18.5	54.5	..	41	97	111	85.4	92.0	5,219	13,157	45	16.3	
Mongolia	0.43	..	67.4	9.9	110	97	120	97.5	98.0	1,316	1,955	66	10.5	
Myanmar	..	..	32.7	..	360	56	93	81.4	89.2	..	..	..	..
Nepal	..	..	39.3	27.8	740	11	74	26.4	61.6	891	1,776	..	6.4
Pakistan	0.42	..	27.6	32.0	500	20	..	28.5	53.4	915	2,789	26	20.8	
Philippines	0.54	..	46.5	19.8	200	58	110	92.7	92.5	3,144	5,326	62	17.2	
Singapore	0.65	..	62.0	..	30	100	..	88.6	96.6	15,822	31,927	43	16.0	
Sri Lanka	0.28	..	66.1	..	92	97	..	89.6	94.7	2,570	4,523	49	4.4	
Tajikistan	..	..	33.9	..	100	71	82	99.3	99.7	759	1,225	..	12.4
Thailand	0.46	..	72.2	..	44	99	..	90.5	94.9	5,284	8,664	55	9.6	
Turkmenistan	..	..	61.8	10.1	31	97	..	98.3	99.3	3,274	5,212	..	26.0
Uzbekistan	..	..	67.2	13.7	24	96	97	98.9	99.6	1,305	1,983	..	7.2
Viet Nam	..	..	78.5	4.8	130	70	93	86.9	93.9	1,888	2,723	..	27.3
Europe	..	..	69.1	..	..	..	..	99.0	99.5	..	..	..	19.1
Albania	..	..	57.5	..	55	99	..	98.3	99.2	3,442	6,185	..	5.7
Austria	0.77	33.1	50.8	..	4	100	96	..	..	15,410	43,169	48	30.6
Belarus	..	..	50.4	..	35	100	105	99.6	99.8	4,405	6,765	..	18.4
Belgium	0.81	26.2	78.4	2.1	10	100	112	..	..	18,528	37,180	48	33.9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	..	47.5	..	31	100	..	91.1	98.4	..	..	..	12.3
Bulgaria	..	..	41.5	..	32	..	98	98.1	99.1	5,719	8,627	..	26.3
Croatia	0.56	..	..	..	8	100	101	97.1	99.3	7,453	13,374	51	17.8
Czech Rep	0.59	..	72.0	8.0	9	99	102	..	..	11,322	20,370	52	15.7
Denmark	0.85	..	78.0	d,j	5	100	105	..	..	26,074	36,161	51	38.0
Estonia	0.59	54.2	70.3	..	63	..	102	99.8	99.8	9,777	15,571	68	18.8	
Finland	0.82	..	77.4	j	6	100	111	..	..	21,645	30,970	52	37.5
France	..	..	74.6	5.7	17	99	101	..	..	19,923	33,950	..	11.7
Germany	0.80	30.6	74.7	..	8	100	99	..	..	18,763	35,885	49	31.4
Greece	0.52	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	10,892	25,601	48	..
Hungary	0.53	..	77.4	4.2	16	..	101	..	..	10,307	17,465	62	9.8
Iceland	0.82	..	..	..	0	..	106	..	..	22,716	36,043	55	30.2
Ireland	0.71	26.3	..	..	5	100	110	..	..	21,056	52,008	52	14.2
Italy	0.58	..	60.2	c	7.4	d	96	..	..	16,702	36,959	45	10.3
Latvia	0.59	..	48.0	10.6	42	100	101	99.7	99.8	7,685	11,085	66	21.0	
Lithuania	0.51	..	46.6	12.1	13	..	99	99.6	99.6	8,419	12,518	70	10.6	
Macedonia, FYR	0.52	..	..	..	23	97	98	..	..	4,599	8,293	51	18.3
Moldova, Rep	0.47	..	62.4	6.7	36	99	103	98.6	99.6	1,168	1,788	64	12.9	
Netherlands	0.82	42.8	78.5	..	16	100	97	..	..	20,358	38,266	48	35.1
Norway	0.91	34.3	73.8	e,j	..	16	100	..	..	31,356	42,340	49	36.4
Poland	0.61	35.2	49.4	..	13	99	..	..	..	8,120	13,149	60	20.7
Portugal	0.64	19.8	66.3	j	..	5	100	..	..	13,084	24,373	51	19.1
Romania	0.47	..	63.8	4.5	49	98	101	96.3	98.4	4,837	8,311	56	9.3	
Russian Federation	0.47	..	..	..	67	99	100	99.5	99.7	6,508	10,189	64	8.0
Serbia and Montenegro	..	21.8	58.3	f	..	11	99	..	..	..	..	..	7.9
Slovakia	0.61	23.1	74.0	d	..	3	..	101	99.7	10,127	15,617	61	19.3	
Slovenia	0.58	..	73.8	..	17	100	101	99.6	99.7	14,084	22,832	55	12.2	
Spain	0.72	..	80.9	3.0	4	..	106	..	..	13,209	29,971	46	30.5
Sweden	0.85	37.0	78.0	d,j	..	2	100	..	..	23,781	28,700	50	45.3
Switzerland	0.77	..	82.0	c	..	7	..	94	..	20,459	40,769	45	24.8	
Ukraine	0.41	..	67.5	14.9	35	100	100	99.5	99.8	3,429	6,493	64	5.3	
United Kingdom	0.70	25.3	84.0	g	..	13	99	..	..	19,807	32,984	44	17.3
Middle East & N. Africa	..	..	51.8	..	220	70	..	61.6	80.5	..	..	..	..
Afghanistan	..	..	4.8	..	1900	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Algeria	..	..	64.0	..	140	92	107	59.6	78.0	2,684	8,794	..	..
Egypt	0.27	..	56.1	11.2	84	61	93	43.6	67.2	1,963	5,216	30	3.6	
Iran, Islamic Rep	0.31	..	72.9	..	76	90	95	70.4	83.5	2,835	9,946	33	..	
Iraq	..	..	13.7	j	..	250	72	..	..	..	..	..	..
Israel	0.61	29.5	68.0	h	..	17	99	93.4	97.3	14,201	26,636	54	15.0	
Jordan	..	..	55.8	11.0	41	97	101	85.9	95.5	1,896	6,118	..	7.9
Kuwait	..	..	50.2	..	5	98	106	81.0	84.7	7,116	20,979	..	0.0
Lebanon	..	..	61.0	..	150	89	109	..	..	2,552	8,336	..	2.3
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	..	..	39.7	..	97	94	106	70.7	91.8	..	..	..	..
Morocco	..	..	50.3	16.1	220	40	..	38.3	63.3	2,153	5,354	..	..
Oman	..	..	23.7	..	87	95	99	65.4	82.0	4,056	18,239	..	..
Saudi Arabia	0.21	..	31.8	..	23	91	99	69.5	84.1	3,825	18,616	31	0.0	
Syrian Arab Rep	..	..	36.1	..	160	76	89	74.2	91.0	1,549	5,496	..	12.0
Tunisia	..	..	60.0	..	120	90	104	63.1	83.1	3,615	9,933	..	11.5
Turkey	0.29	..	63.9	10.1	70	81	77	78.5	94.4	4,757	7,873	31	4.4	
United Arab Emirates	..	..	27.5	..	54	96	106	80.7	75.6	..	..	25	0.0
Yemen	0.12	..	20.8	38.6	570	22	..	28.5	69.5	387	1,274	15	0.3	



For more information, please visit <http://earthtrends.wri.org/datatables/population>

	Gender Empowerment Measure (0-1 scale, 1 = complete equality)		Maternity and Family Planning				Education and Literacy				Income and Labor		Parliamentary Seats Held by Women (percent of total)	
	2003	1990-99 (a)	Contraceptive Prevalence (percent) 1990-2002 (a)	Women With Unmet Family Planning Needs (percent) 1990-2002 (a)	Maternal Mortality Ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) 2000	Skilled Attendants at Delivery (percent of births) 1995-00	Ratio of Women to Men		Literacy Rate (percent) 2000-04		Annual Earned Income (international dollars) 1991-00 (a,b)			Female Professional and Technical Workers (percent of total) 1992-01 (a)
							Enrolled in Secondary Education 2001-02	2001-02	Women	Men	Women	Men		
Sub-Saharan Africa	..	..	20.2	22.4	940 i	42 i	..	54.4	69.8	..	..	..	13.5
Angola	..	..	6.2	..	1700	45	81	..	..	1,627	2,626	..	15.5
Benin	..	..	18.6	27.2	850	66	46	25.5	54.8	876	1,268	..	7.2
Botswana	0.56	..	40.4	..	100	94	107	81.5	76.1	5,353	10,550	52	17.0	
Burkina Faso	..	5.2	11.9	4.4	1000	31	67	8.1 j	18.5 j	855	1,215	..	11.7	
Burundi	..	..	15.7	..	1000	25	75	43.6	57.7	561	794	..	18.5
Cameroon	..	..	19.3	13.0	730	60	81	59.8	77.0	1,235	2,787	..	8.9
Central African Rep	..	..	27.9	16.2	1100	44	..	33.5	64.7	889	1,469	..	..
Chad	..	..	7.9	9.4	1100	16	..	37.5	54.5	760	1,284	..	5.8
Congo	..	..	..	..	510	..	73	77.1	88.9	707	1,273	..	10.6
Congo, Dem Rep	..	..	31.4	..	990	61	..	..	..	467	846	..	10.2
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	15.0	43.4	690	63	..	..	..	818	2,222	..	8.5
Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	..	880	65	58	..	..	16,852	42,304	..	5.0
Eritrea	..	..	8.0	27.0	630	21	67	..	..	654	1,266	..	22.0
Ethiopia	..	..	8.1	35.8	850	6	65	33.8	49.2	516	1,008	..	7.8
Gabon	..	..	32.7	28.0	420	86	..	..	..	4,937	8,351	..	11.0
Gambia	..	15.9	9.6	..	540	55	70	..	..	1,263	2,127	..	13.2
Ghana	..	..	22.0	23.0	540	44	83	65.9	81.9	1,802	2,419	..	9.0
Guinea	..	..	6.2	24.2	740	35	..	..	..	1,569	2,317	..	19.3
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	7.6	..	1100	35	..	..	..	465	959	..	..
Kenya	..	..	39.0	23.9	1000	44	88	78.5	90.0	962	1,067	..	7.1
Lesotho	..	29.4	30.4	..	550	60	127	90.3	73.7	1,357	3,578	..	17.0	
Liberia	..	..	6.4 j	..	760	51	..	39.3	72.3	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	..	..	18.8	25.6	550	46	..	..	..	534	906	..	6.4
Malawi	..	..	30.6	29.7	1800	56	74	48.7	75.5	427	626	..	9.3
Mali	..	..	8.1	28.5	1200	41	..	11.9 j	26.7 j	635	1,044	..	10.2
Mauritania	..	..	8.0	31.6	1000	57	76	31.3	51.5	1,581	2,840	..	4.4
Mozambique	..	..	5.6	6.7	1000	44	63	31.4	62.3	840	1,265	..	30.0
Namibia	0.57	..	28.9	22.0	300	78	114	82.8	83.8	4,262	8,402	55	21.4	
Niger	..	..	14.0	16.6	1600	16	63	9.3	25.1	575	1,005	..	1.2
Nigeria	..	..	15.3	17.5	800	42	..	59.4	74.4	562	1,322	..	5.8
Rwanda	..	..	13.2	37.0	1400	31	93	63.4	75.3	968	1,570	..	45.0
Senegal	..	19.6	12.9	32.6	690	58	68	29.7	49.0	1,140	2,074	..	19.2	
Sierra Leone	..	..	4.3	..	2000	42	..	..	..	337	815	..	14.5
Somalia	..	..	..	..	1100	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	..	37.8	56.3	15.0	230	84	108	85.3	86.7	6,371	14,202	..	27.8	
Sudan	..	..	8.3	26.0	590	86 j	..	49.1	70.8	867	2,752	..	9.7
Tanzania, United Rep	..	..	25.4	21.8	1500	36	..	69.2	85.2	467	660	..	21.4
Togo	..	..	25.7	32.3	570	49	..	45.4	74.3	941	2,004	..	7.4
Uganda	..	..	22.8	24.4	880	39	79	59.2	78.8	1,088	1,651	..	24.7
Zambia	..	..	34.2	18.3	750	43	78	73.8	86.3	571	1,041	..	12.0
Zimbabwe	..	32.8	53.5	12.9	1100	73	89	86.3	93.8	1,757	3,059	..	10.0	
North America	..	..	76.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.1
Canada	0.79	46.6	74.7	..	6	98	99	..	..	22,964	36,299	54	23.6
United States	0.77	29.0	76.4	..	17	99	98	..	..	27,338	43,797	55	14.0
C. America & Caribbean	..	..	64.4	..	190 i	82 i	..	84.8	88.3	..	..	..	21.4
Belize	0.46	..	46.7	..	140	83	..	77.1	76.7	2,376	9,799	52	9.3	
Costa Rica	0.66	..	75.0	..	43	98	103	95.9	95.7	4,698	12,197	28	35.1	
Cuba	..	..	73.3	..	33	100	99	96.8	97.0	..	..	..	36.0
Dominican Rep	0.53	32.8	64.7	12.5	150	98	125	84.4	84.3	3,491	9,694	49	15.4	
El Salvador	0.45	..	59.7	8.2	150	90	100	77.1	82.4	2,602	7,269	46	10.7	
Guatemala	..	..	38.2	23.1	240	41	93	62.5	77.3	2,007	6,092	..	8.2
Haiti	..	..	27.4	39.8	680	24	..	50.0	53.8	1,170	2,089	..	9.1
Honduras	0.36	..	61.8	7.0	110	56	..	80.2	79.8	1,402	3,792	36	5.5	
Jamaica	..	..	65.9	..	87	95	104	91.4	83.8	3,169	4,783	..	13.6
Mexico	0.56	16.3	68.4	..	83	86	107	88.7	92.6	4,915	12,967	40	21.2	
Nicaragua	..	29.4	68.6	14.7	230	67	117	76.6	76.8	1,520	3,436	..	20.7	
Panama	0.49	22.3	58.2 j	..	160	90	107	91.7	92.9	3,958	7,847	49	9.9	
Trinidad and Tobago	0.64	..	38.2	..	160	96	109	97.9	99.0	5,916	13,095	51	25.4	
South America	..	..	74.4	..	190 i	82 i	..	88.8	90.0	..	..	..	14.7
Argentina	0.65	22.4	..	..	82	98	106	97.0	97.0	5,662	15,431	53	31.3
Bolivia	0.52	18.1	53.4	26.1	420	69	97	80.7	93.1	1,559	3,463	40	17.8	
Brazil	..	23.1	76.7	7.3	260	88	111	86.5	86.2	4,594	10,879	62	9.1	
Chile	0.46	..	..	..	31	100	..	95.6	95.8	5,442	14,256	52	10.1
Colombia	0.50	24.4	76.9	6.2	130	86	111	92.2	92.1	4,429	8,420	50	10.8	
Ecuador	0.49	..	65.8	10.0	130	69	100	89.7	92.3	1,656	5,491	44	16.0	
Guyana	..	..	37.3	..	170	86	..	..	..	2,439	6,217	..	20.0
Paraguay	0.42	..	57.4	11.3	170	71	102	90.2	93.1	2,175	6,641	54	9.6	
Peru	0.52	..	68.9	10.2	410	59	93	80.3	91.3	2,105	7,875	44	18.3	
Suriname	..	..	42.1	..	110	85	139	..	..	..	..	..	51
Uruguay	0.51	29.2	..	..	27	100	114	98.1	97.3	5,367	10,304	52	11.5
Venezuela	0.44	..	..	..	96	94	116	92.7	93.5	3,125	7,550	61	9.7
Oceania	..	..	64.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.4
Australia	0.81	..	76.1 j	..	8	100	99	..	..	23,643	33,259	55	26.5
Fiji	0.34	..	..	..	75	100	106	91.4 j	94.5 j	2,838	7,855	9	5.9
New Zealand	0.77	..	74.9	..	7	100	..	..	..	18,168	26,481	52	28.3
Papua New Guinea	..	..	25.9	..	300	53	78	..	..	1,586	2,748	..	0.9
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	130	85	..	..	..	1,239	1,786	..	0.0
Developed	..	..	68.7	..	..	..	..	98.6 k	99.1 k	..	..	..	18.5
Developing	..	..	59.4	..	440	55 i	..	69.4 k	83.4 k	..	..	..	13.6

a. Data are for the most recent year available within the range of dates shown. b. Excludes agricultural wages. c. Including some cases of sterilization for non-contraceptive reasons. d. Data pertain to all sexually active women. e. Data pertain to women born in 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, or 1968. f. Data pertain to former Yugoslavia, excluding the province of Kosovo and Metohija. g. Data exclude Northern Ireland. h. Data pertain only to the Jewish population. i. Regional totals are calculated by UNICEF and combine South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. j. Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading. k. Regional totals were calculated by UNESCO.

Gender and Development: Technical Notes

DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

Gender Empowerment Measure is a composite index that quantifies women's opportunities. The measure is calculated from three components. *Political participation and decision-making power* is measured by the proportional share, by gender, of parliamentary seats. *Economic participation and decision-making power* is measured by (a) the proportional share, by gender, of positions as legislators, senior officials, and managers; and (b) the proportional share, by gender, of professional and technical positions. *Power over economic resources* is measured by the estimated earned income for women and men, in US dollars adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP). Variables in these three areas are weighted equally and indexed by their relationship to the ideal scenario (i.e., 50-50 distribution between genders is considered the ideal for representation in parliaments). The gender empowerment measure for a particular country is presented on a scale of 0-1, with higher numbers representing greater levels of equality.

Woman-Headed Households is the percent of occupied housing units whose members acknowledge a woman as the head of the household. In many countries, female-headed households suffer from a lower and more precarious tenure status than male-headed households, which leads to greater insecurity for themselves and their dependents. Data were collected primarily through census data and household surveys. In other cases, data may come from specific housing studies carried out by different UN groups. Public housing boards, housing financial institutions, real-estate agencies, and nongovernmental organizations have also supplied data when census or household data were unavailable.

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate is the percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) in a marital or consensual union who are currently using contraception.

Women with Unmet Family Planning Needs is the percentage of fertile women who are not using contraception and report that they do not want children or want their next child with a delay of two years or more. Contraception includes both modern (sterilization, the pill, condoms, vaginal barrier methods, etc.) and traditional (periodic or prolonged abstinence, withdrawal, etc.) methods. Data were compiled primarily from surveys based on nationally representative samples of women aged 15-49. The surveys used for data compilation include Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), and Family Health Surveys (FHS).

Maternal Mortality Ratio is the annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes, either when pregnant or within 42 days of birth or termination of pregnancy. Measured per 100,000 live births, it quantifies the risk of death once a woman has become pregnant. Women in countries with both high fertility and high maternal mortality run the highest lifetime risks of death as a result of childbearing. (Reduction of maternal mortality is one the United Nations' MILLENNIUM Development Goals.) Estimates of maternal mortality were obtained by UNICEF from a variety of sources, including government reporting, household surveys, and DHS.

Skilled Attendants At Delivery is the percentage of births attended by physicians, nurses, midwives, or primary health care workers trained in midwifery skills. Women are most in need of skilled care during delivery and the immediate postpartum period, when roughly three-quarters of all maternal deaths occur. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), developed by UNICEF with partners in 1997, were used by governments in 66 countries to collect the data presented here. Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) provided relevant data to UNICEF for more than 35 additional countries. For the majority of remaining countries, national governments provided non-MICS data. Where no reliable official figures exist, estimates have been made by UNICEF. Where possible, only comprehensive or representative national data have been used.

Ratio of Women to Men Enrolled in Secondary Education represents the ratio of female to male gross enrollment in secondary schooling. A ratio of 100 indicates equality in representation. Lower numbers represent a higher percentage of male than female enrollment. The data are for the 2001-2002 school year. The ratio is calculated by WRI by dividing the gross enrollment of males by that of females for secondary education. The result is multiplied by 100 to produce the final ratio. UNICEF calculates gross enrollment data by dividing the number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, by population in the relevant official age group, and then multiplying by 100 to produce a ratio.

Literacy Rate, shown here for both men and women, is generally defined as the percentage of the population aged 15 years and over who can both read and write, with understanding, a short, simple statement on their everyday life. This indicator can be used to measure the achievement of literacy programs and the effectiveness of primary education. According to UNESCO, "literacy represents a potential for further intellectual growth and contribution to economic-socio-cultural development of society." Adult literacy correlates with GNP per capita, life expectancy, fertility rates, infant mortality, and urbanization. Most literacy data are collected during national population censuses. Typically, censuses are held only once in a decade, so UNESCO supplements these data with household surveys, labor force surveys, employment surveys, industry surveys, and agricultural surveys when they are available.

Annual Earned Income, shown here for both men and women, is an estimate of the annual earning power available to workers in the nonagricultural sector. Data are reported in 2002 international dollars adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP). Direct measures of income disaggregated by gender are unavailable for most countries. In order to calculate this indicator, UNDP uses a ratio of female non-agricultural wage to the male non-agricultural wage, male and female shares of the economically active population, total male and female population, and GDP per capita (PPP). These data are obtained from the World Bank's World Development Indicators and the United Nations Population Division.

Female Professional and Technical Workers is women's share of total positions defined according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) Major Group 2. This classification includes physical, mathematical and engineering science professionals, life science and health professionals, teaching professionals and other (business, social science, legal, religious) professionals. Values were calculated by UNDP on the basis of occupational data from the International Labor Organization (ILO) LABORSTA database. The ILO receives these data from country labor surveys.

Parliamentary Seats Held by Women is calculated based on the total number of seats in parliament and the number of seats occupied by women. When there is both an upper house and a lower house of parliament, the total number of women in both houses is divided by the total number of seats in both houses. Data are current as of April 1, 2004. The Inter-Parliamentary Union compiles these data based on information provided by national parliaments.



FREQUENCY OF UPDATE BY DATA PROVIDERS

The Gender Empowerment Index and labor data are published annually by UNDP in the *Human Development Report*. Literacy and education data are compiled annually by UNESCO. UNICEF publishes maternal health indicators in its annual *State of the World's Children*. Household data are released by UN-Habitat in its Human Settlement Statistics database approximately every five years. Data on world contraceptive use are updated every two years. The Inter-Parliamentary Union updates its Women in Parliament data set monthly to reflect elections.

DATA RELIABILITY AND CAUTIONARY NOTES

Gender Empowerment Measure: This index is calculated for the purposes of comparing across countries, so data must be obtained from international datasets, limiting the variables that can be used for the calculation. Without these constraints, other variables that are more detailed could have been used to measure more accurately the political, professional, and economic empowerment of women.

Women-Headed Households: Data reliability varies on a country-by-country basis. Data for women-headed households are limited and were collected over a 15-year period. The reader should use caution when comparing across countries.

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate and Women with Unmet Family Planning Needs: The data refer only to women ages 15-49 who are married or in a consensual union. Information on single men or women is not as widely available, although it constitutes a significant proportion of contraceptive use (or lack thereof).

Maternal Mortality Ratio: The purpose of these estimates is to draw attention to the existence and likely dimensions of the problem of maternal mortality. The data are not intended to serve as precise estimates. The margins of uncertainty associated with these values are large and the estimates cannot be used to monitor trends.

Skilled Attendants at Delivery: The data included for this variable cover a wide range of years and sources. Some data refer to periods other than 1995-2002. Comparisons between countries should be made with caution due to the resulting potential for variability in data quality and timing for individual countries.

Ratio of Women to Men Enrolled in Secondary Education: While UNESCO keeps the most complete global data set on enrollment levels, problems do remain. The availability and quality of national school enrollment statistics vary widely, particularly for developing countries. Even though UNESCO has applied the same methodology to analyze all of the country data, definitions of "schooling" and "enrollment" are not strictly comparable among countries.

Literacy Rate: The availability and quality of national statistics on literacy varies widely, particularly for developing countries. When census and survey data are not available for a particular country, estimates need to be made based on neighboring countries. Even when census and survey data are available, they are typically collected only once every decade. In addition, many industrialized countries have stopped collecting literacy data in recent years, based on the assumption, sometimes incorrect, that universal primary education means universal literacy. Even though UNESCO has applied the same methodology to analyze all of the country data, actual definitions of adult literacy are not strictly comparable among countries. Some countries assume that persons with no schooling are illiterate, or change definitions between censuses. In addition, UNESCO's definition of literacy does not include people who, though familiar with the basics of reading and writing, do not have the skills to function at a reasonable level in their own society. Practices for identifying literates and illiterates during actual census enumeration may also vary, and errors in literacy self-declaration can affect data reliability. Therefore, users should exercise caution when making cross-country comparisons.

Annual Earned Income: Since direct measures of income disaggregated by gender are unavailable for most countries, this indicator is calculated by UNDP from wage figures including both men and women, estimates of the size of the labor force by gender, and ratios of male-to-female income.

Female Professional and Technical Workers: The collection and reporting of labor statistics is governed by a well-defined set of standards developed through a number of international agreements. The ILO applies rigorous quality standards to the data it receives. However, as is the case with all large datasets that rely on government reporting, there are likely to be some irregularities.

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