



## Making the MDGs Work for All

Women and girls are the key to achieving the MDGs. Gender equality and women's empowerment is not just a goal in itself, but also critical for attaining most of the other goals, including universal primary education; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; eliminating extreme poverty and hunger; and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Part One of *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- how women and girls are the key to achievement of the MDGs
- why a gender-responsive and rights-based approach is needed, and how this benefits all—women and men, girls and boys
- how the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Plan for Action and the MDGs are mutually reinforcing
- how slow progress against the MDGs is partly due to non-gender-responsive implementation of policies and programmes, making them less effective in reaching and addressing the needs of women and girls
- how slow progress is also partly due to a failure to link implementation to a rights-based approach that empowers all people—both women and men—to claim their rights and become active agents in their own development
- why monitoring and reporting must also be gender-responsive and rights-based, and what this requires
- how at the national level, monitoring needs to focus on intermediate targets that are achievable and politically relevant, with timeframes of one to three years.

The Millennium Development Goals represent an aspiration at the global level. The global goals and targets cannot be taken directly as appropriate targets for any individual country, but should be adapted by individual countries to their specific situation and context, with national progress measured against national goals, targets and indicators. Part Two focuses on how to do this, outlining a four-stage process to develop a national MDG reporting framework:

- undertake a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of the goal in the national context
- develop long-term goals, targets and indicators which are appropriate to that context
- determine strategies and intermediate targets to guide implementation within a shorter time frame
- develop indicators for each of the intermediate targets, taking into account the data needed, the data available, and the data that may need to be collected in order to monitor critical targets and priorities.

The remainder of the report gives detailed information to inform each of these steps against each goal. The issues and potential strategies are outlined in the goal-specific fliers for this report.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 1 is, in many ways, the core Millennium Declaration Goal. All other goals and targets contribute in some way to the global challenge of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

Poverty and hunger have a greater impact on women. They are also among the principal causes of inequality and lack of empowerment.

To eradicate poverty and hunger, the first challenge is the macroeconomic policy context. Conventional neo-classical economic policies have often harmed the interests of the poor, with particular impact on women and girls. To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of these issues at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- why macroeconomic policies need to be **pro-poor**, and what this means
- how macroeconomic policies are gender-blind, and what needs to be done to make them gender-responsive
- how poverty is much broader than the income/expenditure and hunger focus of Goal 1, and what other dimensions need to be addressed
- how some of the poorest women may be living in non-poor households
- why poverty data need to be analysed separately for women and men, and how suitable data can be collected
- how time poverty is crippling women and girls, and why action is needed to reduce the time they spend on unpaid domestic and care work
- how poverty has a greater impact on women and girls, and why focusing on female-headed households is **not** the right response
- why young women must be a key target group, and youth unemployment should continue to be used as a national indicator
- how women and girls are more affected by lack of food security, and policies and programmes must address this
- why nutritional data must be collected for both males and females, not just women of reproductive age
- how women and girls in crisis and conflict situations are particularly vulnerable, and must receive specific attention.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- make macroeconomic policies pro-poor, gender-responsive and rights-based
- improve the gender-responsiveness of poverty statistics
- invest in time-saving infrastructure, especially in rural areas and poor communities
- increase women's access to paid employment
- increase women's access to land, property, credit and other resources
- empower women and girls
- ensure non-discrimination on the basis of sex or other criteria, especially for women and girls
- implement gender-responsive rights-based programmes in crisis and conflict situations.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 1 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 2: Universal Primary Education

*Global Monitoring Report 2007 Millennium Development Goals* found that, between 2000 and 2005, the global primary school completion rate increased from 78 percent to 83 percent and the pace of progress accelerated in many countries. Yet 60 percent of developing countries are unlikely to reach 100 percent primary completion by 2015.

*The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007* found that of the 72 million children of primary school age who were not in school, 57 percent were girls. Girls from ethnic, religious, or caste minorities—the ‘doubly disadvantaged’—made up approximately 75 percent of the 55 million girls who remain out of school.

To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of these issues at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- how universal completion of primary education alone is largely an instrumental target, and why countries that have already achieved it should raise the target to higher levels of educational attainment
- why national MDG education indicators need to be shown separately for boys and girls
- why the standard indicators do not accurately capture access to primary education for both boys and girl, and what alternatives can be used
- how parents and society often attach little value to girls’ education
- how this means that girls are often kept home to help with domestic work and childcare, affecting their school attendance and performance
- how girls’ attendance at school can also be affected by distance and lack of toilets and water, especially once they reach puberty
- how curricula, teaching materials and methods, and attitudes often reinforce gender stereotypes
- how poverty and education fees particularly reduce opportunities for girls’ education
- why HIV/AIDS and family care are a major barrier to girls’ education in epidemic-affected countries
- how discrimination against minority groups is a major cause of girls’ non-attendance in school
- why in some countries with high levels of education, the performance of boys is below that of girls
- how Goal 2 overlooks the literacy needs of older women and men.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- promote the value of education for girls to parents and communities
- promote economic policies that create employment opportunities for women with education
- invest in time-saving infrastructure to reduce the time girls spend on domestic work
- provide support for girls’ domestic and care responsibilities
- improve girls’ physical access to schools
- review educational content and teaching methods to remove gender stereotypes
- review educational content and teaching methods from a rights perspective
- address barriers to schooling for girls from minority groups
- achieve gender equity among teachers and head teachers at each level of education
- reduce the direct costs of education for girls.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 2 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 3: Gender Equality and Empowerment

Goal 3 is the only explicitly gender goal in the Millennium Development Goal framework. It focuses on improving women's lives and women's empowerment as a way to achieve the other goals, rather than to benefit women and girls and realize their human rights.

To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of gender equality and empowerment at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- how there are three domains of gender equality in which change is needed, and which domain is not addressed by the MDGs
- why gender equality is not sufficient for empowerment, and what else is required
- how the priorities for achieving Goal 3 are interdependent with the other Millennium Development Goals
- which three target groups of women require special attention if the MDGs are to be achieved.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- ensure that educational outcomes lead to employment or increased incomes
- improve sexual and reproductive rights for women
- promote gender equality and men's involvement in unpaid domestic and care work
- increase women's ownership of property and their rights to equal inheritance
- reduce gender inequality in paid employment and business
- increase women's participation in decision-making in the public sphere at all levels
- eliminate violence against women and girls
- eliminate violence, especially gender-based violence, against women in crisis and conflict
- implement gender-responsive budgeting
- support women and women's groups to hold governments accountable for their commitments
- ensure women's active participation in data collection.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 3 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

High levels of infant and child mortality continue to be a major development and human rights issue in many developing countries, particularly the poorest. Although more children are surviving the first five years of life, progress in reducing child mortality lags behind progress in all the other goals.

Progress in sub-Saharan Africa is still lagging far behind other regions in the world. Southern Asia also has relatively low rates of child survival, although there was a marked improvement between 1990 and 2004. Only two regions, East Asia and Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, are close to achieving the MDG target. But even in those two regions, more than half the countries are off track.

To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of these issues at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- why infant mortality rates for boys are almost universally higher than for girls
- why some Asian countries have an extreme surplus of males at birth
- how sex-selective abortions are a new dimension of female disadvantage
- why policy makers need to be aware of the gender implications of unbalanced population sex ratios
- why most children who do not survive to their fifth birthday die from preventable causes
- why boys aged 2-5 are at higher risk of death due to greater exposure to risk
- how mothers, the main caregivers, may lack the power to improve the health of their children
- why efforts to reduce child mortality need to target high risk groups of mothers.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- disaggregate data sources on child mortality by age and sex
- identify and address the factors that lead to higher mortality among girls where this occurs
- identify and address the factors that lead to higher mortality among older boys where this occurs
- address the factors that lead to sex-selective abortions of females
- target health education and information to men.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 4 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

In 2005, 536,000 women died of maternal causes, compared to 576,000 in 1990. Ninety-nine percent of these deaths occurred in developing countries. The maternal mortality ratio was 450 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in developing regions, compared to just 9 per 100,000 in developed regions.

Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where most of the deaths occur. By contrast, dramatic improvements have been recorded in Southeast Asia, North Africa and East Asia.

To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of maternal mortality at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- why maternal mortality is difficult to measure without a reliable death registration system
- how maternal mortality is typically approached from a health perspective, and why this means they can fail to address key barriers to women's use of health services
- why men and communities should be targeted for health education on pregnancy and childbirth
- why maternal health needs to encompass women's rights to reproductive health
- why genital mutilation is both a serious violation of women's reproductive rights and a health issue, and must be eliminated
- why women's access to transportation infrastructure and communications is important to reducing maternal mortality
- why basic reproductive health services should be free and easily accessible to all women
- why antenatal and delivery services should be prioritized
- how adolescent and young women are more at risk, and should be specifically targeted by maternal health initiatives.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- reduce the costs for women of accessing primary reproductive health care
- improve women's access to transport and communications infrastructure
- involve men and communities in maternal health care.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 5 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 6: Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Activity under Millennium Development Goal 6 usually focuses primarily on combating HIV/AIDS—partly because HIV-related illnesses or conditions are a major cause of death; and because of the immense publicity given to the campaign to fight HIV/AIDS; the relatively good access to data for monitoring progress; and its economic and social impact, much of which falls on women and children.

However, in terms of total deaths, deaths among women, the disease and care burden for individual women and the economic costs for countries, increased attention is needed to combating malaria and tuberculosis. Each year malaria kills approximately 10,000 pregnant women, and 200,000 children of pregnant women in malaria-endemic countries. Tuberculosis kills more women each year than all maternal mortality causes combined.

To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of these diseases at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- how women are more vulnerable to HIV infection—biologically, socially and culturally
- which groups of women are especially at risk of HIV infection, and need to be specifically targeted
- how sex workers are widely targeted for preventive strategies, but discrimination and stigma restrict their access to HIV/AIDS treatment and services
- why married women are also a risk group needing attention
- how women need improved access to barrier methods to prevent HIV infection, such as the female condom
- how HIV/AIDS programmes are often gender-blind and may even discriminate against women, for example by testing pregnant women without their informed consent
- how women bear the main responsibility of care for family members with HIV/AIDS, and this typically affects three generations of women
- how women with tuberculosis face more stigma than men, and are less likely than men to obtain treatment
- how sex-disaggregated data on malaria are needed to help increase treatment rates among women.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- ensure an appropriate share of the national budget is allocated to health
- raise awareness of women's greater vulnerability to HIV/AIDS
- reduce women's risk factors for exposure to HIV/AIDS
- improve and protect women's access to treatment for HIV/AIDS
- eliminate discrimination and stigma against women living with HIV
- protect the human rights of women with HIV/AIDS
- support primary caregivers for people with AIDS, and children orphaned by AIDS
- reduce the stigma and discrimination experienced by women with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis
- improve knowledge of women's reproduction and sexuality among both women and men
- involve men in protection and support for women with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria
- improve women's timely access to treatment for malaria.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 6 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 7: Environmental Sustainability

Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for environmental sustainability. A sustainable environment is also critical for the welfare of women and their families. Without water, food, shelter and the means for a livelihood, equality and empowerment are both meaningless and unattainable.

Among the urban poor and most rural populations, women are largely responsible for providing water and fuel. They are also the majority of farmers in developing countries. Women are therefore particularly dependent on natural resources, and are most affected by their loss or degradation. However, poor women's dependence on the environment, combined with their poverty and lack of alternatives, may also mean that they contribute to environmental degradation and pollution.

To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of these issues at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- how environmental sustainability and gender equality are interdependent
- why women should be involved as decision makers in environmental sustainability at all levels
- how clean water and adequate sanitation are human rights, but have been denied to the poor—especially women and girls and particularly those in urban slums—by the imposition of privatization and user-pays fees
- how access to clean water and adequate sanitation is essential for gender equality as it gives women and girls time for other activities, such as education, health care and paid work
- how adequate sanitation reduces disease and the time women spend on care of the sick
- why locating water sources and toilets close to home may reduce the risk of violence against women
- how more training is needed for women in water management and sanitation, and what this should cover
- why women, especially female-headed households, need land rights and water for productive uses
- why women are more vulnerable to natural disasters and their consequences
- why women need security of tenure and adequate housing, especially in urban slums
- why women in urban slums need improved infrastructure and services and a political voice.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- involve women in environmental initiatives as active participants and decision makers
- increase women's ability to perform their tasks in an environmentally sustainable way
- ensure that economic policies are compatible with the right to safe drinking water
- ensure that water and sanitation initiatives are gender-responsive and rights-based
- ensure that environmental sustainability projects build the capabilities of girls and women
- ensure that female slum farmers, especially in female-headed households, obtain irrigation water
- increase women's access to housing and security of tenure, particularly in urban slums
- improve women's access to infrastructure and services in urban slums.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 7 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.



## Making the MDGs Work for All

### Goal 8: Global Partnership for Development

Goal 8 deals primarily with macroeconomic and general economic policy issues, and the role of donors and international financial institutions in working with developing countries to support development through global partnership. It also deals with access to drugs, and to new technologies.

To inform a gender-responsive rights-based analysis of global partnership issues at the national level, *Making the MDGs Work for All* explains:

- how the implementation of non-discriminatory trading and financial systems is not gender neutral, and often negatively affects women
- why an increase is needed in total global partnership resources, and particularly in those directed towards policies which are pro-poor, gender-responsive and rights-based
- how increased funding and support is needed to improve gender-responsive data
- how many targets and indicators under Goal 8 are the responsibility of donor countries
- how some indicators under Goal 8 are the responsibility of developing countries
- how international financial institutions are also part of the global partnership
- how United Nations agencies and NGOs are also players in the global partnership
- why donor aid programmes should mainstream a gender-responsive rights-based perspective.

Analysis of these issues at the country level should lead to identification of national strategic priorities. To help monitor them, *Making the MDGs Work for All* includes a list of suggested long-term targets and indicators.

Ultimately, success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals rests on implementing effective policies, programmes and projects. *Making the MDGs Work for All* suggests how to use gender-responsive rights-based approaches to:

- direct more ODA, loans and grants to gender-responsive rights-based policies and programmes
- increase funding and support to improving gender-responsive and sex-disaggregated data
- encourage all members of the global partnership to report against relevant areas of Goal 8
- integrate a gender-responsive rights-based perspective in national monitoring of aid effectiveness
- support women's groups in donor and developing countries to work with donor countries and IFIs
- build capacity for integrating a gender-responsive rights-based perspective into economic policy
- include cross-border issues affecting women and girls, including migrant workers and trafficking.

*Making the MDGs Work for All* also provides a list of suggested national intermediate targets and indicators for Goal 8 which can be used to guide policy, motivate governments, and ensure accountability.

