



1.5

Women in development

| | Female population | Life expectancy at birth | | Pregnant women receiving prenatal care | Teenage mothers | Women in nonagricultural sector | Unpaid family workers | | Women in parliaments | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|------|
| | % of total 2005 | years | | % 2000-05 ^a | % of women ages 15-19 2000-05 ^a | % of total 2004 | Male % of male employment 2000-05 ^a | Female % of female employment 2000-05 ^a | % of total seats | |
| | | Male 2005 | Female 2005 | | | | | | 1990 | 2006 |
| Afghanistan | .. | .. | .. | 16 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 27 |
| Albania | 50.4 | 73 | 79 | 91 | .. | 31.7 | .. | .. | 29 | 7 |
| Algeria | 49.5 | 70 | 73 | 81 | .. | 17.0 | 7.1 | 13.6 | 2 | 6 |
| Angola | 50.7 | 40 | 43 | 66 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 | 15 |
| Argentina | 51.1 | 71 | 79 | 98 | .. | 45.5 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 6 | 35 |
| Armenia | 53.4 | 70 | 76 | 93 | 6 | 46.5 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 36 | 5 |
| Australia | 50.6 | 78 | 83 | .. | .. | 48.6 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 6 | 25 |
| Austria | 51.1 | 77 | 82 | .. | .. | 46.2 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 12 | 32 |
| Azerbaijan | 51.5 | 70 | 75 | 70 | .. | 48.8 | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Bangladesh | 48.9 | 63 | 65 | 49 | 33 ^b | 23.1 | 9.9 | 48.0 | 10 | 15 |
| Belarus | 53.3 | 63 | 74 | .. | .. | 56.0 | .. | .. | .. | 29 |
| Belgium | 50.9 | 77 | 82 | .. | .. | 44.8 | .. | .. | 9 | 35 |
| Benin | 49.6 | 54 | 56 | 81 | 22 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 7 |
| Bolivia | 50.2 | 63 | 67 | 79 | 16 | 36.5 | 5.2 | 11.1 | 9 | 17 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 51.4 | 72 | 77 | 99 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Botswana | 50.9 | 35 | 34 | 97 | .. | 43.0 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 5 | 11 |
| Brazil | 50.7 | 67 | 75 | 97 | .. | 46.7 | 5.5 | 9.3 | 5 | .. |
| Bulgaria | 51.6 | 69 | 76 | .. | .. | 53.0 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 21 | 22 |
| Burkina Faso | 49.7 | 48 | 49 | 73 | 23 | 14.6 | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| Burundi | 51.2 | 44 | 46 | 78 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 31 |
| Cambodia | 51.7 | 54 | 61 | 38 | 8 | 51.3 | 31.6 | 53.3 | .. | 10 |
| Cameroon | 50.3 | 46 | 47 | 83 | 28 | 21.6 | 9.5 | 27.2 | 14 | 9 |
| Canada | 50.4 | 78 | 83 | .. | .. | 49.4 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 13 | 21 |
| Central African Republic | 51.2 | 39 | 40 | 62 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 11 |
| Chad | 50.5 | 43 | 45 | 39 | 37 | 12.8 | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Chile | 50.5 | 75 | 81 | .. | .. | 38.1 | 1.4 | 3.2 | .. | 15 |
| China | 48.6 | 70 | 74 | 90 | .. | 40.9 | .. | .. | 21 | 20 |
| Hong Kong, China | 52.9 | 79 | 85 | .. | .. | 47.3 | 0.2 | 1.4 | .. | .. |
| Colombia | 50.6 | 70 | 76 | 94 | 21 | 48.3 | 3.5 | 7.7 | 5 | .. |
| Congo, Dem. Rep. | 50.4 | 43 | 45 | 68 | .. | 20.1 | .. | .. | 5 | 8 |
| Congo, Rep. | 50.4 | 52 | 54 | 88 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14 | 9 |
| Costa Rica | 49.2 | 77 | 81 | 92 | .. | 38.5 | 1.8 | 3.5 | 11 | 39 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 49.2 | 45 | 47 | 88 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 9 |
| Croatia | 51.9 | 72 | 79 | .. | .. | 46.2 | 1.3 | 4.4 | .. | 22 |
| Cuba | 50.0 | 75 | 79 | 100 | .. | 37.7 | .. | .. | 34 | 36 |
| Czech Republic | 51.3 | 73 | 79 | .. | .. | 47.1 | 0.3 | 1.3 | .. | 16 |
| Denmark | 50.5 | 76 | 80 | .. | .. | 48.8 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 31 | 37 |
| Dominican Republic | 49.5 | 65 | 72 | 99 | 23 | 38.2 | .. | .. | 8 | 20 |
| Ecuador | 49.9 | 72 | 78 | 84 | .. | 42.7 | 3.7 | 11.0 | 5 | .. |
| Egypt, Arab Rep. | 49.9 | 68 | 73 | 70 | 10 | 20.6 | 9.0 | 25.8 | 4 | 2 |
| El Salvador | 50.8 | 68 | 74 | 86 | .. | 34.8 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 12 | 17 |
| Eritrea | 50.9 | 53 | 57 | 70 | 14 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22 |
| Estonia | 54.0 | 67 | 78 | .. | .. | 52.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | .. | 19 |
| Ethiopia | 50.3 | 42 | 43 | 28 | 17 | 40.6 | 5.2 | 9.9 | .. | 22 |
| Finland | 51.0 | 76 | 82 | .. | .. | 50.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 32 | 38 |
| France | 51.3 | 77 | 84 | .. | .. | 47.2 | .. | .. | 7 | 12 |
| Gabon | 50.2 | 53 | 54 | 94 | 33 | .. | .. | .. | 13 | 9 |
| Gambia, The | 50.4 | 55 | 58 | 91 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 13 |
| Georgia | 52.7 | 68 | 75 | 95 | .. | 50.3 | 19.0 | 39.0 | .. | 9 |
| Germany | 51.2 | 76 | 82 | .. | .. | 46.6 | 0.5 | 1.9 | .. | 32 |
| Ghana | 49.4 | 57 | 58 | 92 | 14 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Greece | 50.6 | 77 | 82 | .. | .. | 40.7 | 4.3 | 14.7 | 7 | 13 |
| Guatemala | 51.3 | 64 | 72 | 84 | .. | 38.8 | 21.3 | 24.5 | 7 | 8 |
| Guinea | 48.8 | 54 | 54 | 82 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 50.6 | 44 | 47 | 62 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 | 14 |
| Haiti | 50.7 | 52 | 53 | 79 | 18 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

Women in development

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WORLD VIEW

| | Female population % of total 2005 | Life expectancy at birth years | | Pregnant women receiving prenatal care % 2000-05 ^a | Teenage mothers % of women ages 15-19 2000-05 ^a | Women in nonagricultural sector % of total 2004 | Unpaid family workers | | Women in parliaments | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|---|--|---|---|----------------------|------|
| | | Male 2005 | Female 2005 | | | | Male % of male employment 2000-05 ^a | Female % of female employment 2000-05 ^a | 1990 | 2006 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Honduras | 49.6 | 67 | 71 | 83 | .. | 46.8 | 12.1 | 8.3 | 10 | 23 |
| Hungary | 52.4 | 69 | 77 | .. | .. | 47.0 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 21 | 10 |
| India | 48.7 | 63 | 64 | .. | .. | 17.3 | .. | .. | 5 | 8 |
| Indonesia | 50.1 | 66 | 70 | 92 | 10 | 31.1 | .. | .. | 12 | 11 |
| Iran, Islamic Rep. | 49.3 | 70 | 73 | .. | .. | 13.7 | .. | .. | 2 | 4 |
| Iraq | .. | .. | .. | 77 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 26 |
| Ireland | 50.3 | 77 | 82 | .. | .. | 47.6 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 8 | 13 |
| Israel | 50.5 | 78 | 82 | .. | .. | 49.6 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 7 | 14 |
| Italy | 51.5 | 78 | 83 | .. | .. | 41.3 | 3.0 | 5.8 | 13 | 17 |
| Jamaica | 50.6 | 69 | 73 | 98 | .. | 47.0 | 0.4 | 2.5 | 5 | 12 |
| Japan | 51.1 | 79 | 86 | .. | .. | 41.2 | 1.5 | 8.6 | 1 | 9 |
| Jordan | 48.0 | 71 | 74 | 99 | 4 | 25.0 | .. | .. | 0 | 6 |
| Kazakhstan | 52.1 | 61 | 72 | .. | .. | 49.4 | 1.0 | 1.3 | .. | 10 |
| Kenya | 49.9 | 50 | 48 | 88 | 23 | 38.7 | .. | .. | 1 | 7 |
| Korea, Dem. Rep. | 50.0 | 61 | 67 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 21 | 20 |
| Korea, Rep. | 49.9 | 74 | 81 | .. | .. | 41.6 | 1.3 | 14.8 | 2 | 13 |
| Kuwait | 40.0 | 75 | 80 | .. | .. | 25.2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Kyrgyz Republic | 50.8 | 65 | 72 | .. | .. | 43.8 | 6.5 | 15.9 | .. | 0 |
| Lao PDR | 50.0 | 54 | 57 | 27 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 25 |
| Latvia | 54.3 | 66 | 77 | .. | .. | 53.2 | 2.5 | 2.1 | .. | 19 |
| Lebanon | 51.0 | 70 | 75 | 96 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 5 |
| Lesotho | 53.5 | 34 | 36 | 90 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| Liberia | 50.1 | 42 | 43 | 85 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| Libya | 48.4 | 72 | 77 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| Lithuania | 53.4 | 65 | 77 | .. | .. | 52.2 | 2.6 | 4.4 | .. | 22 |
| Macedonia, FYR | 50.1 | 71 | 76 | 81 | .. | 42.3 | 6.4 | 12.0 | .. | 28 |
| Madagascar | 50.3 | 55 | 57 | 80 | 34 | .. | 29.7 | 51.9 | 7 | 7 |
| Malawi | 50.3 | 41 | 40 | 92 | 33 | 12.4 | .. | .. | 10 | 14 |
| Malaysia | 49.2 | 71 | 76 | 74 | .. | 36.9 | 2.2 | 9.6 | 5 | 9 |
| Mali | 50.2 | 48 | 49 | 57 | 40 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Mauritania | 50.5 | 52 | 55 | 64 | 16 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Mauritius | 50.3 | 70 | 77 | .. | .. | 37.5 | 0.8 | 4.7 | 7 | 17 |
| Mexico | 51.1 | 73 | 78 | .. | .. | 37.4 | 5.5 | 11.0 | 12 | .. |
| Moldova | 52.2 | 65 | 72 | 98 | .. | 54.6 | 0.5 | 1.5 | .. | 22 |
| Mongolia | 49.9 | 65 | 68 | 94 | .. | 50.3 | 18.4 | 31.7 | 25 | 7 |
| Morocco | 50.3 | 68 | 73 | 68 | 7 | 21.8 | 21.6 | 52.5 | 0 | 11 |
| Mozambique | 51.6 | 41 | 42 | 85 | 41 | .. | .. | .. | 16 | 35 |
| Myanmar | 50.3 | 58 | 64 | 76 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Namibia | 50.4 | 47 | 47 | 91 | 18 | .. | 12.8 | 22.0 | 7 | 27 |
| Nepal | 50.4 | 62 | 63 | 28 | 21 | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 6 |
| Netherlands | 50.4 | 77 | 82 | .. | .. | 45.4 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 21 | 37 |
| New Zealand | 50.9 | 78 | 82 | .. | .. | 50.5 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 14 | 32 |
| Nicaragua | 50.0 | 68 | 73 | 86 | 25 | .. | .. | .. | 15 | 21 |
| Niger | 48.9 | 45 | 45 | 41 | .. | 7.8 | .. | .. | 5 | 12 |
| Nigeria | 49.4 | 44 | 44 | 58 | 25 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| Norway | 50.3 | 78 | 83 | .. | .. | 49.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 36 | 38 |
| Oman | 43.8 | 73 | 76 | 100 | .. | 25.7 | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Pakistan | 48.5 | 64 | 65 | 36 | .. | 8.6 | 16.4 | 46.9 | 10 | 21 |
| Panama | 49.6 | 73 | 78 | .. | .. | 43.5 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 8 | 17 |
| Papua New Guinea | 48.5 | 56 | 57 | .. | .. | 35.4 | .. | .. | 0 | 1 |
| Paraguay | 49.6 | 69 | 74 | 94 | .. | 43.9 | .. | .. | 6 | 10 |
| Peru | 49.7 | 68 | 73 | 92 | 13 | 34.6 | 2.6 | 7.4 | 6 | 29 |
| Philippines | 49.7 | 69 | 73 | 88 | 8 | 40.4 | 8.2 | 17.4 | 9 | 16 |
| Poland | 51.5 | 71 | 79 | .. | .. | 47.2 | 4.1 | 7.3 | 14 | 20 |
| Portugal | 51.7 | 75 | 81 | .. | .. | 46.6 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 8 | 21 |
| Puerto Rico | 52.0 | 74 | 82 | .. | .. | 39.3 | 0.1 | 0.9 | .. | .. |



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| | Female population % of total 2005 | Life expectancy at birth years | | Pregnant women receiving prenatal care % 2000-05 ^a | Teenage mothers % of women ages 15-19 2000-05 ^a | Women in nonagricultural sector % of total 2004 | Unpaid family workers | | Women in parliaments | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|----------------|
| | | Male 2005 | Female 2005 | | | | Male % of male employment 2000-05 ^a | Female % of female employment 2000-05 ^a | 1990 | 2006 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | 51.3 | 68 | 75 | 94 | .. | 46.5 | 7.7 | 21.2 | 34 | 11 |
| Russian Federation | 53.6 | 59 | 72 | .. | .. | 50.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | .. | 10 |
| Rwanda | 51.5 | 43 | 46 | 94 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 17 | 49 |
| Saudi Arabia | 46.0 | 71 | 75 | .. | .. | 13.5 | .. | .. | .. | 0 |
| Senegal | 50.8 | 55 | 58 | 79 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 | 19 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 50.2 | 70 | 76 | .. | .. | 45.4 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Sierra Leone | 50.7 | 40 | 43 | 68 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| Singapore | 49.7 | 78 | 82 | .. | .. | 47.0 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 5 | 21 |
| Slovak Republic | 51.5 | 70 | 78 | .. | .. | 52.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | .. | 20 |
| Slovenia | 51.2 | 74 | 81 | .. | .. | 47.6 | 4.3 | 6.9 | .. | 12 |
| Somalia | 50.4 | 47 | 49 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 8 |
| South Africa | 50.9 | 47 | 49 | 92 | .. | 45.9 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 3 | 33 |
| Spain | 50.9 | 77 | 84 | .. | .. | 42.0 | 0.8 | 2.4 | 15 | 36 |
| Sri Lanka | 49.2 | 72 | 77 | 100 | .. | 43.2 | 4.2 | 20.9 | 5 | 5 |
| Sudan | 49.7 | 55 | 58 | 60 | .. | 16.8 | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| Swaziland | 51.8 | 42 | 41 | 90 | .. | 29.9 | .. | .. | 4 | 11 |
| Sweden | 50.4 | 78 | 83 | .. | .. | 50.9 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 38 | 47 |
| Switzerland | 51.6 | 79 | 84 | .. | .. | 47.1 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 14 | 25 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 49.7 | 72 | 76 | 71 | .. | 18.2 | .. | .. | 9 | 12 |
| Tajikistan | 50.4 | 61 | 67 | 71 | .. | 53.3 | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| Tanzania | 50.2 | 46 | 47 | 78 | 26 | .. | 3.0 | 4.6 | .. | 30 |
| Thailand | 50.9 | 68 | 74 | 92 | .. | 46.4 | 14.7 | 31.4 | 3 | .. |
| Togo | 50.6 | 53 | 57 | 85 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 9 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 50.7 | 67 | 73 | 92 | .. | 41.1 | 0.5 | 1.9 | 17 | 19 |
| Tunisia | 49.6 | 72 | 76 | 92 | .. | 25.0 | .. | .. | 4 | 23 |
| Turkey | 49.6 | 69 | 74 | 81 | .. | 19.9 | 8.9 | 49.8 | 1 | 4 |
| Turkmenistan | 50.8 | 59 | 67 | 98 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 26 | 16 |
| Uganda | 50.0 | 49 | 51 | 92 | 31 | .. | 10.3 | 40.5 | 12 | 30 |
| Ukraine | 54.2 | 62 | 74 | .. | .. | 55.1 | 0.6 | 0.6 | .. | 9 |
| United Arab Emirates | 31.9 | 77 | 82 | .. | .. | 14.5 | .. | .. | 0 | 0 |
| United Kingdom | 51.1 | 77 | 81 | .. | .. | 49.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 6 | 20 |
| United States | 50.8 | 75 | 81 | .. | .. | 48.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 7 | 15 |
| Uruguay | 51.5 | 72 | 79 | .. | .. | 46.8 | 0.9 | 2.0 | 6 | 11 |
| Uzbekistan | 50.3 | 64 | 71 | 97 | .. | 39.5 | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| Venezuela, RB | 49.7 | 71 | 77 | 94 | .. | 41.5 | 1.8 | 3.3 | 10 | 18 |
| Vietnam | 50.1 | 68 | 73 | 86 | 3 | 49.1 | 21.9 | 50.3 | 18 | 27 |
| West Bank and Gaza | 49.1 | 71 | 76 | 96 | .. | 17.9 | 6.4 | 32.2 | .. | .. |
| Yemen, Rep. | 49.3 | 60 | 63 | 41 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 0 ^c |
| Zambia | 49.9 | 39 | 38 | 93 | 32 | .. | .. | .. | 7 | 15 |
| Zimbabwe | 50.4 | 38 | 37 | .. | .. | 21.8 | 10.4 | 13.6 | 11 | 16 |
| World | 49.7 w | 66 w | 70 w | .. | .. | 38.1 w | .. w | .. w | 13 w | 17 w |
| Low income | 49.2 | 58 | 60 | .. | .. | 23.4 | .. | .. | 11 | 16 |
| Middle income | 49.8 | 68 | 73 | .. | .. | 40.9 | .. | .. | 14 | 16 |
| Lower middle income | 49.5 | 68 | 73 | 89 | .. | 40.2 | .. | .. | 14 | 16 |
| Upper middle income | 51.4 | 66 | 74 | .. | .. | 44.2 | 3.5 | 7.5 | .. | 15 |
| Low & middle income | 49.6 | 64 | 67 | .. | .. | 36.2 | .. | .. | 13 | 16 |
| East Asia & Pacific | 49.1 | 69 | 73 | 90 | .. | 40.6 | .. | .. | 17 | 18 |
| Europe & Central Asia | 52.1 | 65 | 74 | .. | .. | 47.6 | 3.0 | 7.1 | .. | 14 |
| Latin America & Carib. | 50.6 | 69 | 76 | .. | .. | 43.3 | 4.4 | 7.1 | 12 | .. |
| Middle East & N. Africa | 49.5 | 68 | 72 | .. | .. | 17.7 | .. | .. | 4 | 8 |
| South Asia | 48.8 | 63 | 64 | .. | .. | 17.8 | .. | .. | 6 | 13 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 50.1 | 46 | 47 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| High income | 50.7 | 76 | 82 | .. | .. | 46.0 | 0.6 | 2.7 | 12 | 22 |
| Europe EMU | 51.1 | 77 | 83 | .. | .. | 45.1 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 12 | 24 |

a. Data are for the most recent year available. b. Refers to women 15-49. c. Less than 0.5.

About the data

Despite much progress in recent decades, gender inequalities remain pervasive in many dimensions of life—worldwide. But while disparities exist throughout the world, they are most prevalent in poor developing countries. Gender inequalities in the allocation of such resources as education, health care, nutrition, and political voice matter because of the strong association with well-being, productivity, and economic growth. This pattern of inequality begins at an early age, with boys routinely receiving a larger share of education and health spending than do girls, for example.

Because of biological differences girls are expected to experience lower infant and child mortality rates and to have a longer life expectancy than boys. This biological advantage, however, may be overshadowed by gender inequalities in nutrition and medical interventions, and by inadequate care during pregnancy and delivery, so that female rates of illness and death sometimes exceed male rates, particularly during early childhood and the reproductive years. In high-income countries women tend to outlive men by four to eight years on average, while in low-income countries the difference is narrower—about two to three years. The difference in child mortality rates (table 2.20) is another good indicator of female social disadvantage because nutrition and medical interventions are particularly important for the 1–5 age group. Female child mortality rates that are as high as or higher than male child mortality rates might be indicative of discrimination against girls.

Having a child during the teenage years limits girls' opportunities for better education, jobs, and income and increases the likelihood of divorce and separation. Pregnancy is more likely to be unintended during the teenage years, and births are more likely to be premature and are associated with greater risks of complications during delivery and of death. In many countries maternal mortality (tables 1.2 and 2.16) is a leading cause of death among women of reproductive age. Most maternal deaths result from preventable causes—hemorrhage, infection, and complications from unsafe abortions. Prenatal care is essential for recognizing, diagnosing, and promptly treating complications that arise during pregnancy. In high-income countries most women have access to health care during pregnancy, but in developing countries an estimated 8 million women suffer pregnancy-related complications every year, and over half a million die (WHO 2004). This is reflected in the differences in maternal mortality ratios between high- and low-income countries.

Women's wage work is important for economic growth and the well-being of families. But restricted access to education and vocational training, heavy workloads at home and in nonpaid domestic and market activities, and labor market discrimination often limit women's participation in paid economic activities, lower their productivity, and reduce their wages. When women are in salaried employment, they tend to be concentrated in the nonagricultural sector. However, in many developing countries women are a large part of agricultural employment, often as unpaid family workers. Among people who are unsalaried, women are more likely than men to be unpaid family workers, while men are more likely than women to be self-employed or employers. There are several reasons for this.

Few women have access to credit markets, capital, land, training, and education, which may be required to start up a business. Cultural norms may prevent women from working on their own or from supervising other workers. Also, women may face time constraints due to their traditional family responsibilities. Because of biases and misclassification substantial numbers of employed women may be underestimated or reported as unpaid family workers even when they work in association or equally with their husbands in the family enterprise.

Women are vastly underrepresented in decision-making positions in government, although there is some evidence of recent improvement. Gender parity in parliamentary representation is still far from being realized. In 2007 women represented 17 percent of parliamentarians worldwide, compared with 9 percent in 1987. Without representation at this level, it is difficult for women to influence policy.

For information on other aspects of gender, see tables 1.2 (Millennium Development Goals: eradicating poverty and improving lives), 2.3 (employment by economic activity), 2.4 (children at work), 2.5 (unemployment), 2.11 (education efficiency), 2.12 (education completion and outcomes), 2.16 (reproductive health), 2.18 (health risk factors and public health challenges), 2.19 (health gaps by income and gender), and 2.20 (mortality).

Definitions

- **Female population** is the percentage of the population that is female.
- **Life expectancy at birth** is the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.
- **Pregnant women receiving prenatal care** are the percentage of women attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel for reasons related to pregnancy.
- **Teenage mothers** are the percentage of women ages 15–19 who already have children or are currently pregnant.
- **Women in nonagricultural sector** refers to women wage employees in the nonagricultural sector as a percentage of total nonagricultural employment.
- **Unpaid family workers** are those who work without pay in a market-oriented establishment or activity operated by a related person living in the same household.
- **Women in parliaments** are the percentage of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber held by women.

Data sources

Data on female population and life expectancy are from the World Bank's population database. Data on pregnant women receiving prenatal care are from United Nations Children's Fund's *State of the World's Children 2007*. Data on teenage mothers are from Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International. Data on labor force and employment are from the International Labour Organization's *Key Indicators of the Labour Market*, fourth edition. Data on women in parliaments are from the Inter-Parliamentary Union.