

Millennium Development Goals: 2008 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Progress Chart

When in 2000, all 189 member states adopted the Millennium Declaration they resolved to “promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable”. The third of the Millennium Development Goals, the framework of time-bound targets by which progress can be measured calls for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Ensuring gender equality and empowering women are indispensable in order for all the other goals to be achieved. But progress in achieving Goal 3 has been mixed. More needs to be done, at every level, to achieve gender equality, empower women and create the enabling environment envisioned in the Beijing Platform for Action in which women's rights are recognized as an indispensable part of human rights and where women and men have the same opportunity to realize their full potential.

Millennium Development Goal 3: 2008 Progress Chart

Goals and Targets	Africa		Asia				Oceania	Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western			Europe	Asia
GOAL 3 Promote gender equality and empower women										
Equal girls' enrolment in primary school	close to parity	almost close to parity	parity	parity	parity	close to parity	almost close to parity	parity	parity	parity
Women's share of paid employment	low share	medium share	high share	medium share	low share	low share	medium share	high share	high share	high share
Women's equal representation in national parliaments	very low representation	low representation	moderate representation	low representation	low representation	very low representation	very low representation	moderate representation	low representation	low representation
Color Legend:	Target already met or very close to being met.					Region shows progress but is off track to reach the target if prevailing trends persist.				
	Region shows progress and is on track to reach the target if prevailing trends persist.					No progress or deterioration.				

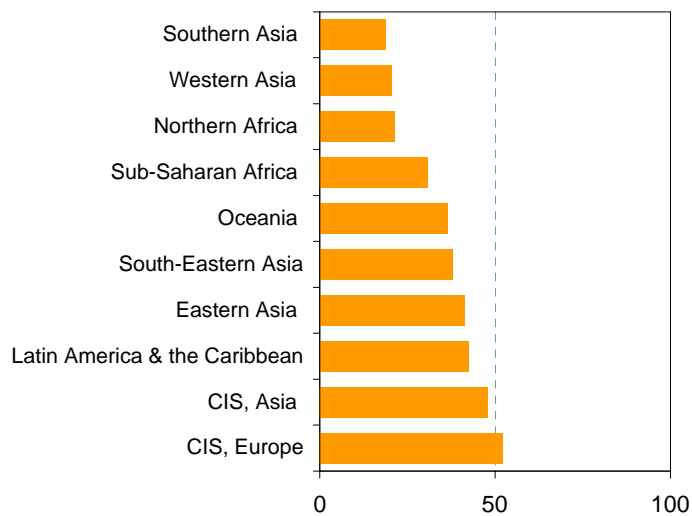
Women are underrepresented in the paid work force

More women are in the labour force than in the past. But women still face greater difficulties than men in securing a paid job. Over 60 per cent of unpaid family workers worldwide are women – meaning that women continue to lack access to decent work, job security and social protection.

More women than men in vulnerable employment

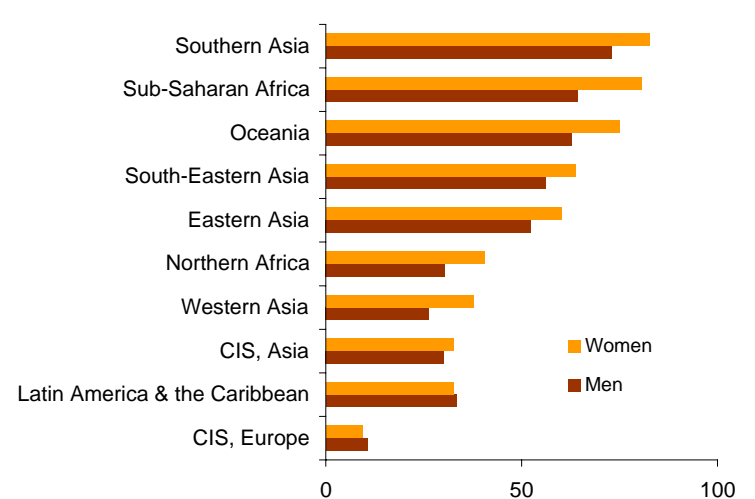
Women are more likely than men to be unpaid contributing family workers or own-account workers, especially in the poorer countries where women’s access to full and productive employment is limited. Without a decent job escaping poverty may prove impossible.

Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, 2006 (Percentage)



[photo]

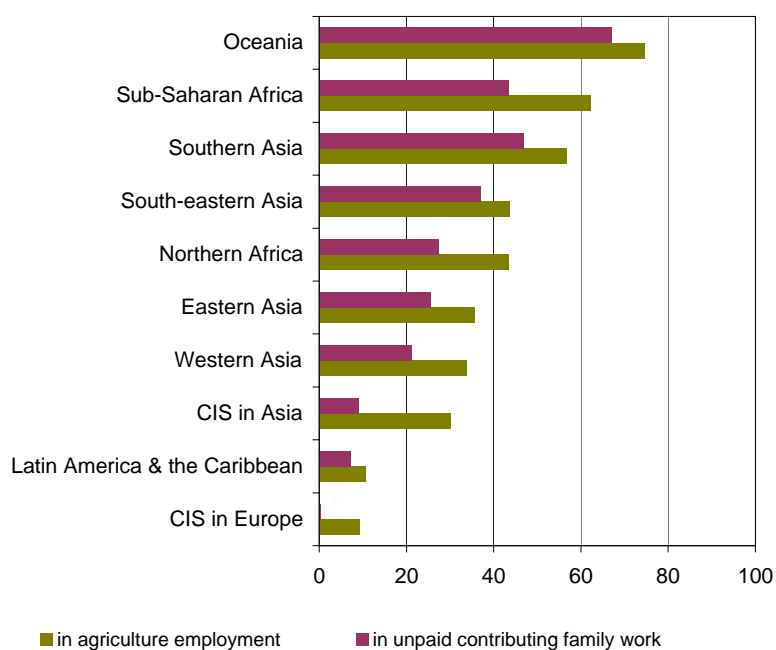
Vulnerable employment as share of total employment, 2007 (Percentage)



Vulnerable employment is defined as the sum of the employment status groups of own-account workers and contributing family workers.

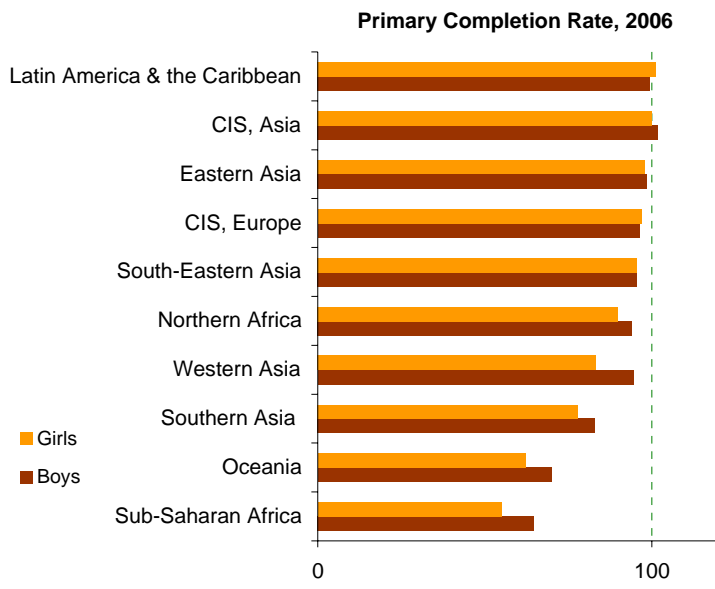
Despite women's large contribution to ensuring food security, their work is often not compensated

Share of women in agricultural employment and in unpaid contributing family work, 2007 (Percentage)

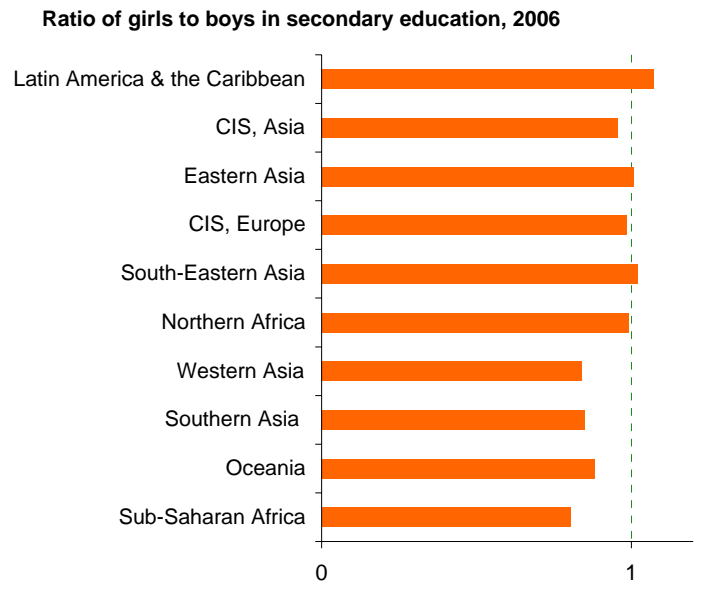


In the poorest regions in the world, most women work in the agricultural sector. However, although food security often depends on their hard work, their work status is likely to be vulnerable and in the least productive sectors.

Fewer girls than boys are finishing primary school and reaching high school levels



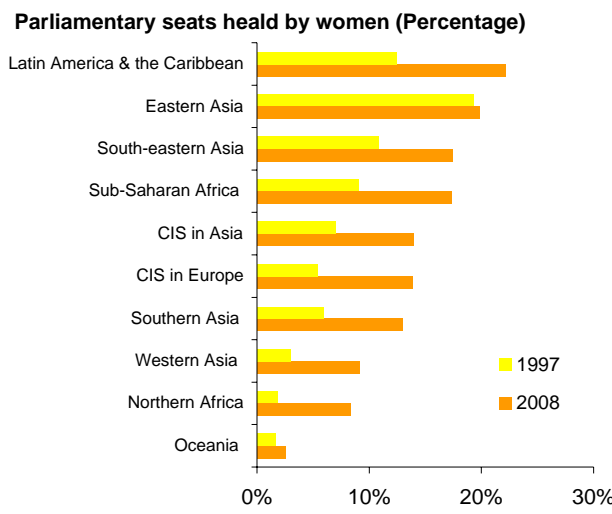
Although all countries have committed to ensure that that by 2015 all children will be able to complete a full course of primary education, in many regions girls are less likely than boys to complete primary education. Worldwide, over 40 million girls, about 55 percent of all children of primary school age, did not attend primary school.



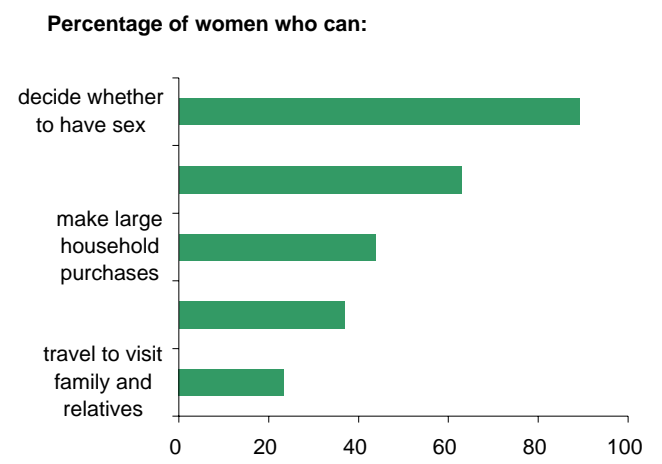
To compete in today's knowledge-driven economy and shifting global markets, countries need a flexible, skilled work force, able to create and apply knowledge. This is usually achieved through strong secondary and tertiary education systems. While many regions have closed the gender gap, others, such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, will need to explore policy options to encourage women to enroll and stay in secondary school, and provide equality in economic opportunities once they join the workforce.

Unequal participation of women and men still persists in all levels of decision-making

Equal participation of women and men in decision-making provides a balance of power that is needed to strengthen democracy. Progress in this area has been steady, but very slow, and uneven by region. Accelerating the pace of change will require increased political will and concrete action to address these challenges, including affirmative action such as the use of quotas, support of women candidates and equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women.



Many women still lack the power to make important decisions for the well-being of their households

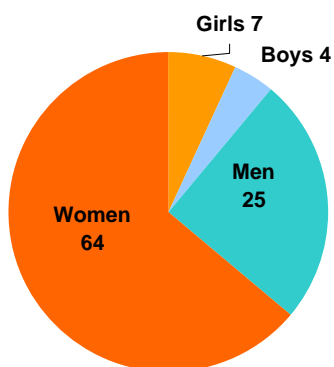


Source: World Bank, data from 1990-2004.

Women and girls shoulder the largest burden in collecting water, leaving less time for study and work

Women and girls shoulder the largest burden of collecting drinking water for their families. For the majority of women spending several hours per day on multiple trips going to a water source deprives them of valuable time which they otherwise could have spent for productive use, learning, child rearing and family care or plain relaxation. By increasing access to safe drinking water closer to homes women and many children stand to benefit the most.

Who usually collects drinking water, 2005-2006 (Percentage)

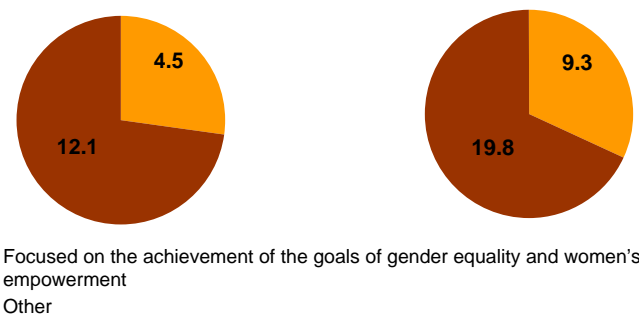


Source: MICS and DHS surveys of 35 developing countries

Not enough aid is going to gender programs

In 2005-06, only \$9.3 billion in bilateral aid was marked by donors as intended to contribute to either gender equality or women's empowerment. This was only one-sixth of the aid from all bilateral donors. Donors need to step up their commitment to incorporating gender assessments into all relevant aid planning, and to provide transparency by reporting more thoroughly on their efforts.

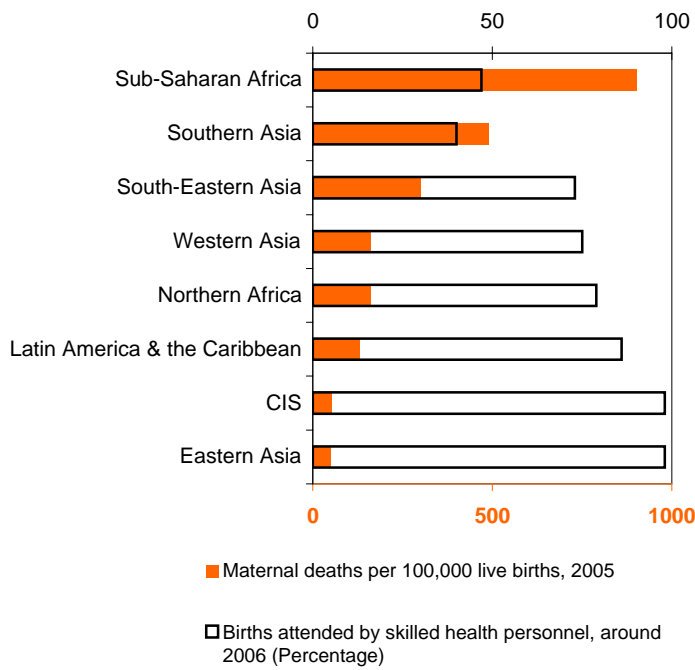
Bilateral sector-allocable ODA, billions of US dollars



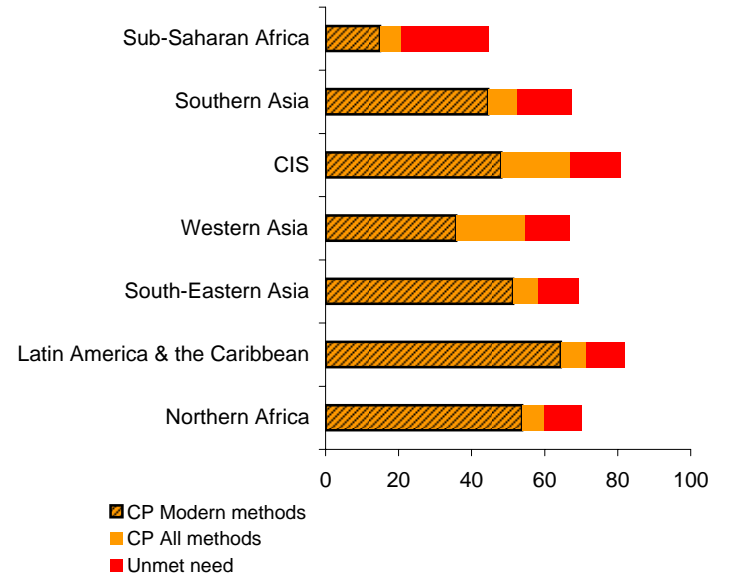
Official development assistance (ODA) comprises grants or loans to developing countries and territories on the OECD Development Assistance Committee list of aid recipients that are undertaken by the official sector with promotion of economic development and welfare as the main objective and at concessional financial terms.

More access to reproductive health is needed to reduce maternal deaths

Access to reproductive health is a basic right that is vital to women's participation and empowerment in their families, communities, schools and workplaces and poverty reduction. Still, more than 200 million women want to delay or avoid another birth but are not using a modern contraceptive method More resources are necessary to address women's unmet need for family planning and to improve contraceptive choices.

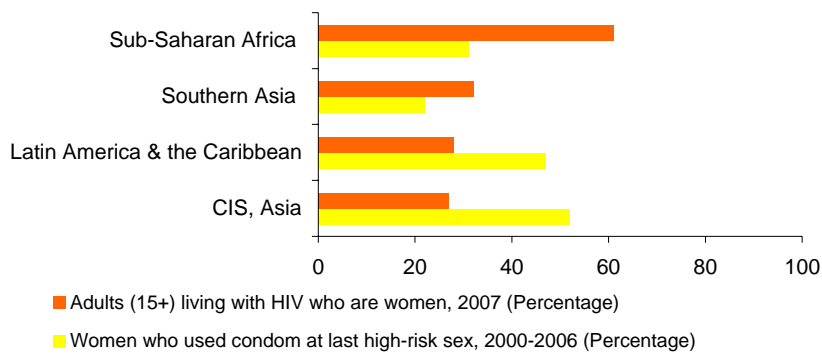


Contraceptive prevalence (CP) and unmet need, 2005 (Percentage)



Note for designer: See attached pdf file for correct format of this chart.

Lack of empowerment prevents women from protecting themselves against disease



Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection due to practices such as child marriage, sexual coercion and violence. Also, women often lack the power to negotiate safe sex. Too few girls and women have access to information, sexuality education and reproductive health services that would empower them against HIV. In Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevention levels have remained very low which has led to high prevalence rates among women.

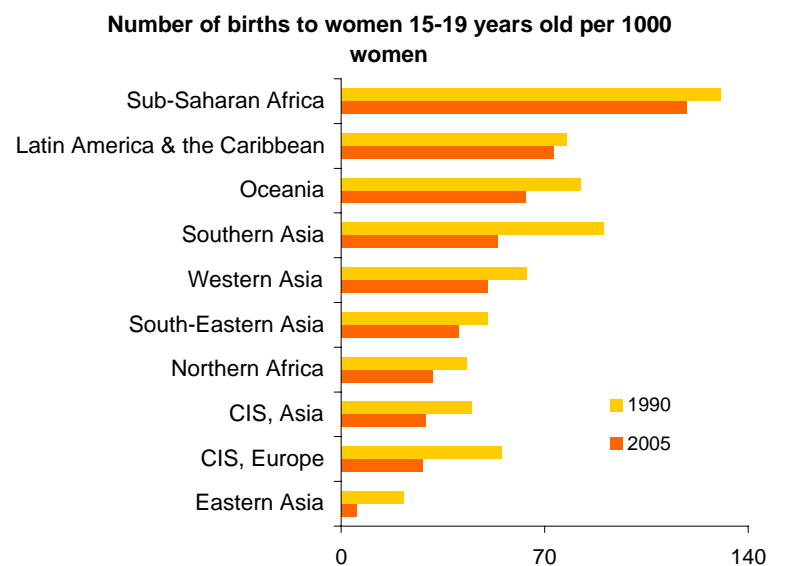
Violence against women

Violence against women is a pervasive violation of women's human rights in all regions and impedes progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. Efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women, end impunity for perpetrators and provide effective support and redress for victims should be incorporated in all national development plans, policies and strategies for the achievement of the MDGs. Efforts to design intervention strategies to reduce violence against women and monitor behaviour changes have been hampered by the lack of adequate statistics.

[include data from WHO study?]

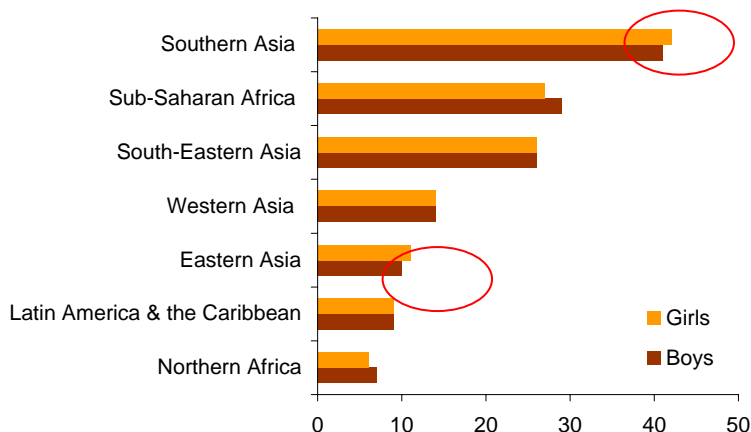
In many regions, adolescent birth rates are high

Adolescent pregnancies may force girls to drop out of school and puts them and their children at higher risk of death and ill-health.



In some regions, biases against girls in childhood still need to correct themselves

Children under-five years of age who are underweight, 1998-2006 (Percentage)



[Chart with child mortality by sex - waiting for data]

Under-five mortality

